



# 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.

## November News Letter 2019.

Cup Day November 5<sup>th</sup>, at my window watching the Jclass steam by, on its way to Castlemaine. Weather, a coolish spring day. The October meeting is one to remember. Long time member Mr. Keith White was made a Life Member. Keith has been Vice President for the last 25 years, he is always in the thick of things, as is Joy, his wife. Working Bee's when we were responsible for our deeded properties. Now that the government has taken back the the maintenance of these sites, Keith (and Joy) have whole heartedly thrown their efforts into our digitising and archiving projects. A vote of thanks goes to David Bailie who tapped Keith on the shoulder back in the early 80's, asking him to join our organisation. Thank you Keith for a job well done. We tend to concentrate on matters that directly concern us, sometimes missing other events happening nearby. A recent event held on October the 26<sup>th</sup> was the commemoration of the birth of Rev John Flynn at Moliagul on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1880. It was presented by the Goldfields Historical & Arts Society supported by several other groups. Flynn, a National Hero was born and bread nearby. Chris Simmins who was involved in this event, seeing the closeness of age, and our common interest in the development of the wireless, alerted us. By all reports it was a great day, and Chris made the Maryborough Advertiser 25/10/19. **Special Announcement.**

**Mr. Max Kay, begs to inform the readers that, three great ? "Historic Minds", (loud drum roll) His, Mr. Ray Pattle and Mr. Ken James, will be launching their latest historical book, \$45.**

**\*\*\* A BOOK ABOUT GUILDFORD \*\*\*.**

A lot of work has gone into this book, 520 pages, (less than 10c a page). As I wrote earlier, we can become a little insular so it will be nice to hear about one of the villages around Castlemaine. Now back to the book, launch 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2pm at the Guildford Hall. (make a good Christmas gift) It is a limited run. To to pre-order ring Max on, 0417291145 or [nettekay@gmail.com](mailto:nettekay@gmail.com). Books will be available for pick-up or purchase on the day. That's the commercial over, the cup run, a good "true blue" Australian horse won and those

high flying, big moneyed overseas syndicates departed the race track, done like a dinner. The last meeting saw the books show that we are still paying our bills, "touch wood" everything seems to be under control. Guest speaker Mrs. Jillian Willoughby gave us an insight into the Symes family of Harcourt. Jillian is a direct descendant, the following is taken from her notes: *The Symes family arrived in Adelaide from Somerset Shire England with their family in 1840 William & Sarah had a family business as Wheelwright & Blacksmith. In 1854 they overlanded to Victoria, travelling in drays taking about 5 weeks. The drays required 2 horses, 1 in the shafts and the other chained tandem style in the lead. Together with their sons James, George, Edmund & Charles. Entering lots of new country and encountering many strangers along the way, formed them into a solid family unit, which is still strong today. In later life the brothers worked together as carpenters, quarrying, building houses & bridges, they were amongst the earliest orchardists in Harcourt. Some of the buildings they built are, Frog Hollow, the Rechabite Hall, Church of Christ at Barkers Creek, and George Symes Cottage built in 1869. These buildings are still in use today. Grandfather Symes and George planted a large orchard on Porcupine Hill beside the house they built called Sunnyside. When Vic Roads acquired it, pulling it down to make way for the freeway, they laid a plaque at the bottom of Symes Road to acknowledge the families association with same for over a century. The brothers along with mother & father had a store near Black Jack Gully in 1862. After Williams death Sarah married Fred Cartledge, living near Black Jack Rail Arch, the house still stands today. The Symes Bros were excellent sportsmen. They formed the first Harcourt cricket team in 1874. In 1885 Charles was presented with a cricket bat, which is still in the family today. Great uncle George was very involved in public life in the district, holding many important positions. There is so much more to tell, you will be able to read the full story on our web page, [www.castlemaineponers.org](http://www.castlemaineponers.org)*

**100 Years Ago 26<sup>th</sup> November 1919.**

The action of the President in authorising payment of October accounts was approved (secretary salary £4. Gas 17/5d). The treasurer reported a credit balance in the current account to be £7-3-10d. The secretary reported having replied to a communication from the Pensions Office relative to the earnings of Mr. Nettleton and the questions relating thereto together with the replies sent, having been read to the meeting, the action of Mr. Taylor in attending to same was approved. The following accounts were ordered to be paid :- Secretary's salary £4-0-0. Gas 19/11d. Treasurers petty cash 4/5d.

**50 Years Ago 13<sup>th</sup> November 1969.**

The treasurer reported income from rent was \$44.25c Subs \$13.80c. Accounts Hall Keeper \$16-00, Workers Compensation \$751 with Eagle Insurance. Mr. J. Wilson thanked members concerned for their attendance at the picnic, and the help of the sub committee. Mr, Gordon Rilen reported the results of the picnic sweep on the Melb Cup, which was won by E.Douse, second H. McQueen. Mr Venoville suggested that new lino be purchased for the stage.

President J. Wilson to obtain quote. Working Bee to be held at the Cairn at Barkers Creek on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 10 o'clock to clean up area before Fire Restrictions. Christmas meeting, a barbecue 11/12/69, to be published in the Castlemaine Mail 6/12/69.

**Christmas Breakup 2019**

Venue Run Rabbit Run Hargraves St. 6-30pm. Cost \$40 per head. Nibbles, soft drink etc supplied. Drinks at bar prices. Barry Palmer providing music. Lastly, the History Week Excursion. It was not supported by the public, which I feel was their loss. There is so much history around. Monument Hill, the back roads to Harcourt, where we enjoyed a great morning tea, a great collecting story, viewed a great collection, had an update on Harcourt's achievements, since the town was bypassed by the freeway. Then a tour of what will be the biggest model railway in Australia. A great drive to the Maldon Machinery Museum, where they did us proud. Good food, good company, fantastic displays, a very good day out.



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& Old Residents' Association Inc.**

*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 7-30pm.  
at the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine

**Guest speaker**  
**Dr. Marjorie Theobald**  
speaking on her latest Book  
**Lost Castlemaine.**  
**Family and friends welcome.**

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

