



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 – July 2019. 139 years old and still going strong.

Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine.
Monday 8th July. Weather is cold & wintry, brrr.
Much to be written, on with motley. Firstly the very important A.G.M. All positions up for grabs. It was confirmed to hold the Christmas Show & Tell meeting at Run Rabbit Run again. Host Peter & staff did such a good job last year, members voted unanimously to return & the hard working secretary was instructed to book the venue. Problem! Peter & family will be in Scotland on our usual meeting night, what to do? Your hard working secretary (unpaid), took the bit between his teeth and unilaterally made the decision to bring the December meeting forward to the only night available. The first Thursday in December, the 5th. Same deal as last year, nibbles, 2 courses, unlimited squash and after dinner mints, and all for \$35 each. Alcoholic drinks at bar prices. Barry Palmer and Co with music. History Week 13th - 20th October was discussed with the secretary proposing that we celebrate by, putting on a bus and visiting 3 local historical places, inviting a couple of out of our district societies to join us. This was agreed to by the members, once again that hard working secretary was instructed to get the ball rolling. It is often said "that things come in three's," and sure enough they do. One of our younger members come up with an idea for the Annual February Excursion. We take a step back in time to the days of our annual paddle steamer trips on the Bay. Our minutes, tell us they went for over 50 years, 1885 to the early 1940's and were hugely popular. Over those years a lot of money was raised, which was distributed each Christmas to various local charities. This year the suggestion is Leave Castlemaine Railway Station to the tuneful sounds of Thompson's Foundry Band, travelling to Southern Cross using our free rail tickets. Make our way to Docklands (800 metres) and board one of the "Flash Harry" catamarans and sail to Port Arlington. Lunch and a look around the town before returning home to Castlemaine. It never stops for this hard working secretary. Stay tuned, by the way the Telegraph Station will be open to the public in History Week.

A great story that just has to be told

Guest speakers, Caroline & Terry Bellair opened their talk by speaking of wills, (the one associated with death). The following, is a condensed version from an article that appeared in the Sunday Age newspaper 20th March 2019. *The problem with wills, according to Caroline, is not that other people spend your money – it's that they do it after your dead. Now in their late 70's she and husband Terry have downsized and tree changed. Last year, in a moment of catharsis, the Bellairs decided. They would donate \$1 million to convert private property into nature reserves and help create habitat links for plants and animals to a changing climate. And in February that money bought a 203 hectare block of land near a township called Emu. The couple live in Castlemaine amid the woods and grass lands of central Victoria, still recovering from the ravages of gold mining and land clearing. Caroline still has her English accent and is acutely aware of the environmental devastation originally imported from her country of birth. So acutely, in fact, it's enough to make this 70 something librarian's blood boil. "If you bugger it up, there's no other planet," Caroline said. "And Australia has been bugged up so fast since white settlement". Conservationist Jeroen van Veen stands beside a tree with gnarled bark, dark almost to black. A gust of wind whispers through the tree's tube – shaped leaves. "Some people say that's the sound of Australia," he says. If so, it is a sound that was almost silenced. Bulokes are among the hardest wooded of any tree in the world. The value of its timber and the fact the tree grew in what was considered good agricultural land meant it was cleared "by the millions". Now only 3% of Australia's buloke woodland remains, bad news for the red-tailed black cockatoo, which feed almost exclusively on the bulokes hard seeds. And those old-growth trees that were spared now cling as small islands in a sea of farmland. This is fragmentation of natural habitat but it's a hidden threat. Species*

can hang on in pockets of habitat for decades before a bushfire, inbreeding, disease or the arrival of a new species seals their fate. It has already happened in this place with the black cockatoos, bush stone curlews, bustards, grey crowned babbler. The list goes on. Over 15 years, Bush Heritage has bought more than 1500 hectares to connect habitat in what they call the Kara-Kara-Wedderburn Landscape. The Bellairs heard Jeroen's plan at a Campbells Creek Landcare meeting last year. The next day, they began the process of donating a million dollars to Bush Heritage. "We'd left them a bequest in our will, but then they'd have all the fun in deciding what to buy," Caroline says. "I thought it would be much more fun to help choose it, and the we could follow what was happening and see how it progressed". What a beautiful story, which will go into our archives for others to read in years to come.

100 YEARS AGO 9th JULY 1919.

The balance sheet was presented by the President, received and adopted. Mr. Thompson moved the action of the committee placing the balance of the War Bonds £3.15.3d into the current account. The Trustee to replace the late Col. Aitken Mr. Fogarty The following elected to the committee. Messrs: Owens, Heron, Stanton, Fogarty, Douglas, Redfern and Escott. Mr. Talor moved that the usual donation of one Guinea be given to the Hospital & Benevolent Asylum.

FIFTY YEARS AGO 10th JULY 1969.

Treasurers Report: Rent \$54.60c Subs 60c. Bank Interest.\$8.83c. Mr. Franklin seconded Mr. Harding moved that membership fees be altered from 60c to \$1. The motion was defeated.

Don't forget folks WANTED "TREASURER!"



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

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday 18th July at 7-30pm
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker
A Fabulous, Spectacular and Great A.G.M.

Family and friends most welcome.

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

