



Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A Member Society of the C.S.V. Inc.

A.C.N.: A0022862G

We look forward to your past



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The new Kilmore Inn (Hotel) which John Wheeler had built.
George Vinge was licensee from 1859 to 1862.

Image Source: SLV image collection.

See page 4 for the article on John Wheeler

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

Group Report.

Hello members and friends.

Due to the many new members listed in the table below the report will not fit here. Thank you all for joining the Group. I hope your research continues and you enjoy belonging to the PPPG.

Turn to page 7 to read all about what is going on.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Barb Hawkins, Newsletter Editor and President.

λ Welcome to the following Members λ

No	Member	Desc. From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1485	Martin McPHEE	a) Samuel LONEY b) Catherine LONEY nee LANDRIGAN c) Bridget LONEY	Arrived in P.P.D. Born P.P.D. June 16, 1845	December 16 1839	"Westminster"
1486	Leonie KELLEHER	a) Samuel LONEY b) Catherine LONEY c) Elizabeth LONEY	Arrived in P.P.D. Born 1846 P.P.D.	December 16 1839	"Westminster"
1487	David ROSS	Henry TURNLEY	Arrived in P.P.D.	1844	"Henry"
1488	Vincent McPHEE	a) Samuel LONEY b) Catherine LONEY nee LANDRIGAN c) Bridget LONEY	Arrived in P.P.D. Born 1845 P.P.D.	Dec. 16, 1839	"Westminster"
1489	Linda HILES	a) William PAGE b) Catherine PAGE nee TRAINOR c) Elizabeth PAGE	Arrived in P.P.D. Married P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	Before date below May 29, 1843 April 07, 1850	"George the Third" to V.D.L. 1835
1444 Additional claim	Dean WHEELER- CUFFE	c) Thomas DEAN d) Zilpah DEAN nee Watson	Arrived in P.P.D.	Nov. 03, 1844	"Wallace"
1490	Peter JOHNSON	a) John FISHER	Arrived in P.P.D.	June 24, 1840	"Andromache"

2020

Meeting Dates

February 29, 2020
May 9
July 11
September 12
November 14

Newsletter Deadlines

April 6
June 9
August 10
October 12
April - May
June - July
August - September
October - November

All correspondence for newsletter items must be sent to Barb Hawkins,
email barbh27@bigpond.com

Jim Poulter - Batman's Treaty, The True Story

Jim Poulter, is the author of numerous children's books with Aboriginal and historical themes. He is a descendent of the Chivers family, early pioneers in the Manningham area, and as part of his upbringing he was told many stories about the aboriginal people. His family's contact with aborigines taught him how they thought and how they had managed the land. He considers that aborigines were not hunter, gatherers. Instead, their cool burning off practice created 'farms without fences'. He was taken to see the eel traps, at Budj Bim, near Lake Condah about 40 years ago.

He has studied John Batman's diaries, which details his visit to the Port Phillip district in 1835 to make a treaty with the local aborigines.

Poulter regards Batman as a liar, a braggart, a womaniser, a murderer and a swindler.

Batman was a member of the Port Phillip Association, a syndicate of wealthy businessmen in Tasmania who wanted land in the Port Phillips District for sheep grazing. Governor Arthur was probably a silent partner in the association, but the initial members were Charles Swanston, banker, Joseph Gellibrand, lawyer and John Wedge, surveyor.

The syndicate chose John Batman to come to Port Phillip and make a treaty with the aborigines along the lines of the feudal system called 'feoffment'. This was a total relinquishment and transfer of rights of ownership of freehold property. It gave the new owner the right to sell the land or pass it on as an inheritance. The treaty included passing from the original owner to the new a fist full of earth and the 'beating of bounds' or marking the boundaries of the land. William Penn is said to have made such a treaty in 1682 with the Delaware Indians in Nth America even though no actual proof of it happening exists.

Two deeds of sale were drawn up for John Batman to bring to Port Phillip, but their pristine condition on his return to Tasmania indicates that they were never spread out on the ground, or on a fallen tree trunk as depicted in the John Wesley Burt painting of c1875. In fact Jim Poulter believes that the deeds were never taken off Batman's boat. The signature marks which were purportedly made by the Jagga Jagga aborigines on the deeds, were probably marks shown to Batman by the Sydney aborigines who accompanied him to Port Phillip. Batman practised copying these marks in his diary.

Batman's diary has proved to be a problem for all historians who have studied it. The author Rex Harcourt exposed a lot of it as being incredulous. Poulter thinks the initial entries referring to Geelong were true but the remainder were a fabrication.

Batman's party consisted of seven aborigines from Sydney, 5 crew including mate Robert Robson and three other men; James Gunn, William Todd and Alexander Thomson.

Many people have read the diary and tried to plot the route outlined. All have come up with a different destination. Some have chosen for the treaty place, Darebin Creek, Merri Creek, or Edgar's Creek on this, that, or the other bend in the river.

Two other accounts of the story exist. One was made by the ship's mate Robert Robson in 1856, twenty years after the event and the other by William Barak (1824-1903) who became a well-respected aboriginal elder, having been at one time employed as a member of the Native Police Force.

William Barak's recollections were also made a long time after the event. He was aged eleven when John Batman arrived in Port Phillip and he dictated his story in 1888 – more than 50 years after the treaty was said to have taken place.

Barak's story is held in the State Library of Victoria. Poulter believes it has been mostly misunderstood by historians but his background has enabled him to understand it and Barak's story contradicts Batman's story.

Aborigines travelled around the country using songlines or easy routes which followed natural geographic markings such as ridge lines. In Port Phillip, these songlines still exist but over time they have changed from walking tracks to cart tracks and then roads. Where the Royal Melbourne Hospital lies is the meeting point for several songlines; tracks which became Flemington Road and Royal Parade. The extension of Queen's Parade from Clifton Hill would meet at this intersection also.

John Pascoe Fawkner didn't believe the distances that Batman said he had travelled. Fawkner said the treaty took place on the Merri Creek and everyone believed him.

From what Barak has stated Poulter believes that the Sydney aborigines followed the songline along modern day St George's Road, to Plenty Road and on to Heidelberg/Greensborough, crossing both the Merri and Darebin Creeks on the way. They met with some aborigines, gave them some food and arranged a meeting on the Plenty River the following day with Batman.

Poulter believes that Batman was taken to where the aborigines were, but that no treaty took place whatsoever.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow, PPPG Member No 1057

My Almost Forgotten Great-great-great Uncle, John Wheeler

By Dean Wheeler 2019 (Great-great-great-nephew)

John Blunt Wheeler's parents were Captain William Oliver Wheeler, born May 1778, and Mary, daughter of John Helsham of Legget's Rath. They had nine children, all sons, with five living to adulthood. These were Richard, Edward Oliver, Arthur, Henry Septimus and John Blunt Wheeler. Arthur is the ancestor of the author.

Captain Wheeler was the son of Sir Richard Denny Wheeler Cuffe, Knight, who had assumed the name Cuffe on inheriting the estates of that family, and the younger brother of Sir Jonah Denny Wheeler Cuffe, Baronet. The Wheeler Cuffe's lived at *Lyrath* near Kilkenny, Ireland, while William and his family lived at *The Rocks*, Maddoxtown, also just outside Kilkenny.

John Blunt Wheeler, was born circa January 1821, most likely at the Wheeler family home, *The Rocks*. He was baptised 17 January 1821 in the Parish / District of St Canice's, co. Kilkenny. His middle name was Blunt after his maternal grandmother, Mary Blunt of Archer's Grove, Kilkenny.

Richard, as the eldest son, would inherit the family estates, so the younger brothers needed to look to other opportunities. William provided these younger sons with some capital to go out and improve their fortunes. Edward went to Canada, Arthur eventually departed for Australia in December 1850, and Henry and John sailed for Australia in 1840.

Henry and John Wheeler arrived at Port Phillip on 10 July 1840 on board the *Coromandel* as cabin passengers. The *Coromandel* had departed London on 4 January 1840 and Plymouth on 10 January 1840. The journey out was reported as a very rough one, due to severe weather with the *Coromandel* detained six weeks in the Bay of Biscay, and having to call into St Jago in the Cape Verde Islands for provisions. She was apparently grounded on entering Port Phillip but was fortunately got off almost immediately. It was reported that during her voyage there were six births and four deaths on board. The journey of six months from London to Melbourne, even at that time, was much longer than the usual time of around three to four months.

The early activities of the brothers in the Colony are not known, however John and Henry did farm cattle and occupy the run, *Vale of Tempe*, as early as 1842. From 1843 to 1844 Henry and John had a pastoral license for the Westernport District. *Vale of Tempe* was sometimes referred to as *Tempe Vale*, and was later renamed *Tarcombe*. This is known because John gave evidence

I was the occupant of Tarcombe immediately preceeding Mr Bury ...

I occupied the Surveyors Creek with cattle in 1842. ...

... I was then in partnership with my Brother Henry Wheeler ...

My brother left the Colony in 1844 ...

In February 1844 John and Henry Wheeler are recorded as operating a licensed run in the Murray District, No.18, of some 40,000 acres, with a carrying capacity of some 6,500 sheep at Tarcome, adjacent to the Tarcombe and Hughes Creek, 9 miles south of Longwood, near Euroa in Victoria.

On 6 February 1844 Henry, along with some other intoxicated young gentlemen, were caught up in an affray with the police in Melbourne, while they were in the process of being arrested for vandalising a bridge at the junction of Collins and Elizabeth Streets. Henry was convicted of assault and after serving several weeks in prison, with declining health, returned to Ireland later that year.

John stayed in Australia, and was left to either continue farming *Vale of Tempe* or look at other options.

The first hotel erected in Kilmore was the Kilmore Inn, which was a timber building originally located on the north-west corner of the junction of Sydney Road and Foote Street, and was opened by the licensee Francis Anderson in September, 1841. John and Henry would no doubt have called at the Inn on their various journeys between Melbourne and their run at *Vale of Tempe*.

On 24 May, 1843 in the *Port Phillip Government Notices* the following notice appears:

THE KILMORE INN

THE above property, situated forty miles from Melbourne, on the Sydney Road, to be sold or exchanged for sheep. Apply to

WM. & H. BARNES & CO.

May 19

In early 1845 John still possessed the Station at *Tempe Vale* in the Port Phillip District (via Licence) and was running cattle, other livestock, and growing wheat. A merchant named Charles Barnes of Melbourne proposed that he exchange his Station, including stock, crops and equipment for the '...Public House called the Kilmore Inn situate at Kilmore ...' and stock in trade, and other property connected with the Inn, then belonging to Barnes and a Phillip Holland.

One source indicates that in 1843 John Wheeler obtained the licence to operate the *Kilmore Inn* and in 1845 the licence was transferred to Mr and Mrs Henry Morris. It seems more likely, that John obtained the licence and transferred it in May 1845, when he actually swapped the station at *Tempe Vale* for the Inn. Although the Morris' became Licensees, John Wheeler continued to hold the freehold of the hotel as he undertook the transfer of the business over the road and built the new premises.

On the afternoon of 26 June 1845 John Wheeler '... settler on the Goulburn ...' was taking Ellen Quick (or Quirk), an unmarried woman, to Melbourne for her confinement. She had been employed by John for eleven months as a servant. About 3.00pm the horse started acting up so John got out of the cart to grab the horse by the reins, but before he could fully gain control, the horse bolted with the cart carrying Ellen. John gave chase on foot and about a quarter of a mile down the road came across the terrible scene of Ellen injured on the roadside, having been thrown from the cart after it had hit an obstacle and overturned. By the time John got there a couple of other men were already providing some assistance and John asked that one of them, a carpenter named Donald Douglas, get the nearest doctor while Ellen was placed on a mattress and taken into the nearby house of James Robertson, a Merri Creek Blacksmith. Unfortunately, Douglas called on several medical men before he found one that would come at about 10pm. By the time Geoffrey James Keatinge (or Keating), surgeon and accoucheur arrived, Ellen was dead, and he was advised that she had died about three hours earlier at 9pm. John apparently stayed with Ellen and '... rendered her every assistance in his power.' This course of events raises the question, was Ellen John's lover? Was the child his? Is this why he was taking Ellen to Melbourne for her confinement?

In *The Argus*, at page 3, on 14 August 1846 a letter to the editor refers to problems between Catholics and Protestants in Kilmore and states among other things:

... I will not, therefore, allude to the burning of Mr Morris's stable and haystack, or the breaking down of Mr Wheeler's paddock fence, for which rewards have been offered in the columns of the Herald, and strong expressions published in the domestic paragraphs of that Journal against the incendiary and the wilful destroyer of property at Kilmore ...

On 17 September 1846, John Wheeler purchased two one-acre parcels of land in the Township of Kilmore from John Lamb and William Carr for £20. The land was Allotment 2 of Section 4 and Allotment 2 of Section 5 which both fronted opposite sides of Sydney Street, with one block being next door to the original Inn and the other across the road next to where he built the new two storey stone Kilmore Inn, or Hotel as it was also referred to.

An article on 10 June 1847 in the Sydney Morning Herald headed 'KILMORE. (from the Port Phillip Gazette's Correspondent)' refers to the need for a Magistrate in Kilmore and states '... Mr. Wheeler talks about building.' The article goes on to provide a list of houses in the township including '1 Wheeler, public-house ...'. This article confirms John Wheeler's ownership of the Kilmore Inn and his intention in 1847 to construct a new building for the hotel. One of the contractors engaged to assist in the construction appears to have been Simon Hickey, Stonemason, of Kilmore.

Unfortunately for John, soon after purchasing the Kilmore Inn, an issue arose around its location. Specifically, that the front portion of the Inn was, according to some surveys, built partly on the government land set aside for the main Sydney Road. John took legal action against Charles Barnes and Phillip Holland from whom he had purchased the hotel. Due most likely to poor legal advice, John lost the case and ultimately the appeal in the Supreme Court in December 1848. To make matters worse, he also had to pay costs, which at 7 July 1848 amounted to £28-17-11. It seems from the facts that no fraud was involved, and all parties would have agreed that it was indeed a mistake to place the hotel where it was originally located.

In 1849 John Wheeler of Kilmore is listed as an elector for the District of Port Phillip.

On Wednesday, 12 June 1850 the following Death Notice appeared on page 2 of *The Argus*:

DIED

Suddenly on the 8th instant, at Kilmore, John Wheeler, Esq.

John Wheeler, 'Publican' aged 31, died 8 June 1850 in Kilmore and was buried in Kilmore on 9 June 1850. An Inquiry was held at Kilmore on the day of John's death by Joseph Sutherland J.P. Thomas Lumsden Esq. M.D. found '... death has been caused by congestion of the brain from an overdose of some narcotic ...'. An apparent overdose of laudanum, although not ruled suspicious, but given later events, it may well have been.

Interestingly, while John was the first person listed on the burial registry for Kilmore Cemetery in 1850, the second person listed was Thomas Seale, Publican, aged 32 years, who died 28 August, 1850 and was buried 31 August. Thomas had been landlord of the Royal Oak Inn. 1850 was not a good year for relatively young publicans in Kilmore.

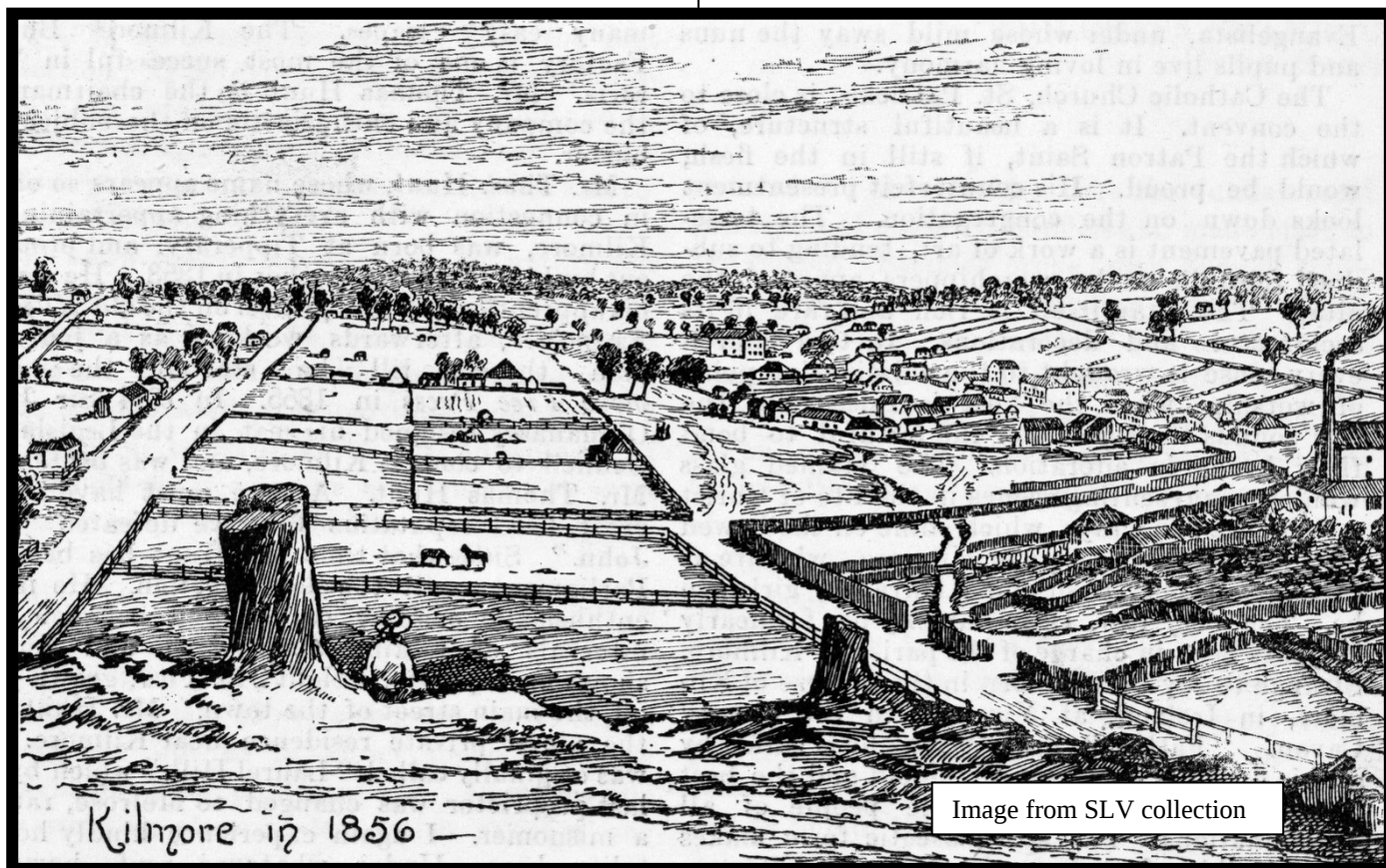
John's cousin Robert Cooke of the Murray in the District of Port Phillip, claiming to be John's next of Kin, and the only person in the Colony '... entitled in distribution to his personal estate ...' applied for, and

was granted Administration of John's Estate in August 1850.

On 31 March 1851 Henry Wheeler returned to Australia aboard the *Anna*, with his older brother Arthur, and their wives, the sisters Cecilia and Catherine Wheeler nee Helsham. Henry and Arthur bought ten half acre blocks in Kilmore in two purchases at auctions on 14 May and 16 September 1851. They paid a total of £260.10.0. for the blocks.

Henry also took successful legal action against his cousin Robert Cooke and Henry Morris to recover the proceeds of John's estate, which had been illegally claimed and sold by Cooke during Henry's absence from the Colony. Among other things, in September 1853 Henry Morris had to pay Henry and Arthur £9,000 for property including the new Kilmore Inn.

John Wheeler was a successful Port Phillip pioneer, and early Kilmore settler who envisioned a thriving future for Kilmore, and unfortunately did not live to see all his dreams fulfilled.



VAFHO Family History Expo in Yarrawonga

Saturday 16th May, 2020. 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Yarrawonga Shire Hall & Community Hall, cnr Belmore and Orr Streets, Yarrawonga Vic 3730
Cost: \$20 per person (whether exhibitor or general public)

Guest Speakers

Display & Trading Tables

Lucky Door Prizes

Raffles for major prizes

Specials, discounts and bonuses offered by exhibitors

EXHIBITORS: (include these and more)

Families in British India Society (FIBIS)

Family History Down Under (FH DU)

First Fleet Fellowship Victoria

Geelong Family History Group

Genealogical Society of Victoria

Gould Genealogy & History

Guild of One Name Studies

Mostly Unsung Military History & Publications

Port Phillip Pioneers

West Gippsland Genealogical Society

Group Report

Hello one and all.

This year starts with the news that the Port Phillip Pioneer Group are celebrating a 50th birthday. It seems like yesterday that we celebrated our 40th. Stay tuned for more on this.

The February meeting is for you! Bring your questions or something that you find interesting to share with us. We will help in any way we can to explore options for your research or ideas to present it. Ring me (Barb) before the meeting if you need to.

Have you looked at our group presentation on youtube? Google: youtube port phillip pioneers, and you should find it, I did.

Here is the link is if needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mlxMWKS6Po>

Have you made a digital story for your family or created a website about them. If so, bring it along to the meeting on a usb stick and we will play it.

Please read the letter from Susan opposite.

The current committee contains a few members who have been serving for a while, it is sure to change as it has over the last year with members stepping down to give others a chance to serve and put new ideas forth. I myself am open to this idea and offer the opportunity for someone to take over the newsletter, or join up with the idea to learn about the committee and one day take over the Presidency. Please give it some thought and ring me if you need.

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Dear PPPG Members,

After careful consideration, I have decided to retire from my positions as Treasurer and PPPG Committee member. I will also retire from the role of Membership Secretary which is closely associated with that of Treasurer. I will therefore not be nominating for re-election at the PPPG AGM in May this year. I have carried out these roles since March 1999 when Ken Smith, President at the time, talked me into becoming Treasurer. I had no accounting qualification apart from balancing my own cheque book, but apparently the need was urgent, so I agreed. It has been a wonderful experience for me by interacting with our members in the intervening twenty-one years. But now I feel the time has come to hand over to a willing PPPG member who will put their own stamp on the role.

I have an internet connection in order to correspond by email with the Committee and members; and to access online, the Group's CBA account. I work with two Excel documents – 'Accounts' and 'Membership List'. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, I am very much hoping that one of our PPPG Members will volunteer for the role of Treasurer, vital in the continued effective running of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group. Please contact me by email or phone if you would like more information.

Best Regards

Susan Grant

grantsv@bigpond.net.au

0407 879 220

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/> Check the website to see the list of events and knowledge available.

Did you know that the Port Phillip Pioneer Group was affiliated with the RHSV.

This is an important connection to have, as the resources available for our timeline mostly live here.

The RHSV holds the collection from the GSV from when it downsized.

The PPPG website has a very long list of resources that were held in the GSV library that no doubt are now at the RHSV.

To gain free entry to the RHSV you need to be a financial member of the PPPG and produce evidence of this. Previously the treasurer was approached for a receipt and it was supplied. I have proposed a membership card that will be issued on demand (at a meeting or by a postage paid return mail envelope) and on payment of fees. This does not cover events like below, just library visits.

Many events are held here to broaden our knowledge of our History of Victoria.

Just recently an event was held to launch Dr Liz Rushen's book, *John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent*. This sounds like an amazing book a must for our library as we have others by the Dr Rushen, all worth a read.

With so much to discover visit the RHSV soon. Do not forget the State Library of Victoria either.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC – MEETINGS

Venue:	Wesley Hall. St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Rds, Gardiner. Public Transport: Right on the route of the No 72 tram and only a short walk from the Gardiner Railway Station. Melways Reference: Map 59 H7.
Entry:	\$2.00.
Doors Open:	1.30 pm. Sign in. Time to browse notice board, borrow library books, and chat.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	2.30 pm.
Afternoon Tea:	3.30 pm. Refreshments provided.
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 29 February 2020
Speaker:	Topic: The February Forum: Brickwalls, Discoveries and Disappointments. "Show and tell of historical items."

Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday, 9 May AGM

Speaker: Andrew Dodd

Topic: Warrigal Creek Massacre

Saturday, 11 July 2019

TBA.

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PPPG ENewsletter

If there are any members who would prefer to receive their PPPG Newsletter via email rather than by post, please contact Susan Grant at grantsv@bigpond.net.au.

Unless we hear from you, we will continue to send your newsletter via Australia Post.

**“All articles and information contained in this Newsletter
are accepted in good faith and the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.
takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy contained therein.”**