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1 April – 10 April 2011

## 18th Castlemaine State Festival 2011

### FESTIVAL SEEKS STORIES OF PAST AND PRESENT

In 2011 the Castlemaine State Festival will be presenting a number of 'storytelling' events and the Festival is looking to people from the community to come forward and share stories. They may be personal anecdotes of the recent past or something from long ago.

A series of one-off performances, called Living History, will explore the past and present of Castlemaine and its surrounds. These will be short public tellings or dramatizations of stories owned by people from the area. The performances will be relatively brief (up to 30 minutes) and may take place in any part of the area, be it a building, a back alley, a deserted mine or a cleared paddock - wherever it is that the story itself took place.

"It's about capturing some of the essence of this township and community, what makes it so special – and it's about passing those stories on. If we don't, the stories are lost forever," said festival director Martin Paten. "But just as importantly, we want to salute the great tradition of storytelling and its capacity to entertain, to inform and to heal."

"Some of the great stories we've already heard include what happened when the Queen came to visit in 1954, tales from the diggings, and migrant experiences from the past right up to the last couple of years," continued Martin. "We're also keen to hear the everyday stories – happy and sad, funny and tragic - love stories, hardships, simple pleasures."

Once the stories are chosen, historians, writers or performers will work together with the festival to 'tell the story' to an audience as part of next year's event.

"If the idea takes your fancy, if you have or are aware of some colourful stories about life in Castlemaine and its surrounds, or if you have an idea for a collaboration for a Living History, please contact us", said Martin. "You can ....continues

call Jo Parkes on Thursday mornings on 5472-3733 if you have any questions about the project, or email [performance@castlemainefestival.com.au](mailto:performance@castlemainefestival.com.au) with a summary of your story. Please contact us soon, as all stories need to be gathered by the end of July.”