

Casterton New Public Cemetery

Friends of the New Cemetery Newsletter



NEXT WORKING BEE AND CEMTERY MAPPING PROJECT DAY

29TH JUNE 2008

8AM TO 12 NOON
(WORKING BEE)
10AM TO 12NOON
(MAPPING)
Followed by BBQ

June 2008
Volume2, Issue 3

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Sisters of Mercy
nuns

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Farewell to our Sisters of Mercy Nuns – A Day of Gratitude and Farewell – Sunday July 6th

In 1901, Dr Moore asked the Mother Superior of the Convent of Mercy, Yarrawonga, to send a few Sisters to help the cause of religion in Casterton.

After some deliberation, 4 sisters were chosen for the new foundation. Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart (Kelly), Sisters M Xavier (Byrne), Patrick (Faye) and Sr M Brigid.

They arrived in Casterton in 1902 and were accompanied to the town by Rev Fr T O'Neill, Parish Priest and Monsignor Shanahan. At Sandford, the Sisters alighted from the train at the wish of the Catholics there and then proceeded to Casterton.

The temporary convent was a large private residence owned by Mr E F Hughes. Not long after the sisters arrival, a primary school was opened known as

the Sacred Heart School, and high school (later known as the College of Our Lady of Mercy).

Children's numbers increased and a second house was rented. With an increasing number of applications for children to attend the school, a third residence was rented.

A boarding school opened in 1903 and the Sisters moved out of their first residence and left it for the teacher. The secondary school opened with 20 pupils.

In 1906, the Convent was opened and in 1907 the sisters moved in and continued teaching in the Primary and Secondary School.

In 1914 the convent joined the Victorian Amalgamation with eight sisters in the community at this time.

The convent was built on the butt of the hill and over the years, cracks began to appear.

**"It is not how
much you do,
but how
much love you
put in the
doing."**



Casterton New
Cemetery Aerial View



Farewell to our sisters of Mercy nuns continued

In the early years, the sisters faced financial difficulties and to supplement their incomes they taught subjects and charged a fee.

In 1962, the boarding school closed and eleven years later in 1973 the college closed through lack of numbers.

The Sacred Heart Primary School continues but the convent no longer remains and soon our nuns who have served the Casterton community will leave.

We say thank you and farewell.

There are three Sisters of Mercy buried in the Casterton New Cemetery

Sr. M Marcella (Sheahan)
died December 16th 1929

Sr M Joseph (Rowan) died
July 13th 1943

Sr M Veronica (Mathews)
died 21st June 1970

Obituries for Sr Joseph and Sr Mathews are outlined below. No obituary could be found from Sr Marcella.

Sister M Joseph (Rowan)(Picture bottom)was a lay teacher at Yarrawonga and in charge of the Infants, Grades 1 and 11. The drinking fountain was erected in the in the church grounds to commemorate her Silver Jubilee in the Order.

Sister M Veronica (Mathews) (picture top)born in Goroke and did her training in Casterton in 1907.

Death of Sister M Veronica (Mathews) (1877 – 1970)

TAKEN FROM THE CASTERTON NEWS, JUNE 22ND 1970

OBITUARY

The death has occurred of Sister Veronica Mathews of Casterton Convent of Mercy.

Sister Veronica who was 93 years old spent the last four and a half years in the Sisters of Mercy Hospital in Geelong.

Sister Veronica spent 84 years in Casterton during which time she was greatly loved and respected.

The Reverend Mother said today that Sister Veronica (Gertrude Mathews) was in the laundry, kitchen and domestic section of her order.

She greatly endeared herself to boarders at the Convent.

Her father came from Ireland and Sister Veronica was born at Goroke in 1877.

She has three nieces and a nephew.

They are Mrs. McDonald (Waubra), Mrs O Bolger (East Kew) , Mrs C L Fox (Pemberton WA) and Mr P Tierney (Ballarat).

Sister Veronica entered Casterton Convent of Mercy in October 1906.

Her funeral will leave Casterton Sacred Heart Church tomorrow at the conclusion of Requiem Mass beginning at noon, for the Casterton Cemetery.

Daughter of Patrick and Mary Mathews.

Casterton New Cemetery

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*Sunday July 6th
9am Morning Prayer
At the Casterton New
Cemetery*

*To honour the memory of
Sr M Marcella Sheahan,
Sr M Joseph Rowan
Sr M Veronica Mathews
and
the pioneers of our parish*

Obituary - Sister Mary Joseph (Rowan)

(1874-1954)

PASSING OF SISTER MARY JOSEPH taken from the Casterton News July 15th 1954.

Sister Mary Joseph, who passed away on Monday night at the age of 80 years, was a teacher at the Casterton Convent for 42 years.

During that time nearly 1000 children, most of whom are still resident in this district passed through her hands.

The Convent was established here in 1902 and in 1907 Sister Joseph came from Ballarat.

She retired from active teaching in 1949.

Following a Requiem Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart this morning, the funeral took place to the Casterton Cemetery. School children formed a guard of honor both at the Church and at the grave

Sacred Heart Parish Casterton

Has the pleasure in inviting everyone to a day of Gratitude and Farewell to the Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation who are leaving us after 106 years of beautiful presence and generous service to god and the Casterton Community.

Format for the day

A display of cherished memories will be available for viewing at Sacred Heart School throughout the day

9.am Morning Prayer

At the Casterton New Cemetery

9.30am Morning Tea

Sacred Heart Hall

10am Memory Walk

To retell the stories of the sister on all three convent sites

11am Mass

Sacred Heart Church and Hall

1pm Lunch and presentations

Enjoy lunch at the Casterton Town Hall with thanks to the CWA.

The Casterton Band will entertain and presentations will be made.

EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME TO ALL OR PART OF THE DAY.
THERE IS NO NEED TO REPLY

*Newsletter
Friends of the Casterton New
Cemetery
c/o Gormans Real Estate
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Casterton, 3311*

