

Historical Happenings

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Casterton and District Historical Society Inc.

Glenelg Inn 100th Anniversary Special



The Glenelg Inn - Prior to 1870

September 15th, 2006 marked the 160th Anniversary of the opening of the first Glenelg Inn and the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the present building on the site. The Casterton and District Historical Society held a dinner at the hotel on 15th September this year to mark the occasion. We have decided to give over the whole of this month's newsletter to history of the Glenelg Inn. Copies of the newsletter printed on "archive" paper will be available on request, price \$2.50. A specially bound copy will be presented to Adrian and Kara Meyer, present licensees of the Inn. Anybody wishing to have a bound copy can apply. The price will be \$10.00. A4 size copies of the photographs featured in the newsletter are available at \$15.00 each.

A Short History of the Inn

Alexander McKinlay, a failed Melbourne merchant and bankrupt Port Fairy and Portland auctioneer, erected a rough slab public house on the banks of the Glenelg River, at what was then known as the Adelaide Crossing Place. He named this hotel, the Glenelg Inn.

McKinlay's original intention was to erect the Inn on the Hamilton side of the Glenelg River. He was thwarted in this move by Edward Henty, who occupied the Muntham run, which in those times extended as far west as the river. Fortunately for McKinlay he was given permission to build on the opposite bank of the Glenelg River, on part of Springbank station.

This original Glenelg Inn opened on 15th, September, 1846, on the site now occupied by the present Glenelg Inn. A post office was established at the hotel in July 1847.

The township of Casterton was gazetted in 1852, and development occurred around the Glenelg Inn - a similar story to so many other parts of Australia, where towns have grown up around a licensed house. The Glenelg Inn, being the only public building available, served as the social centre of the district in those very early days. Not only that - travelling ministers conducted church services in the lounge, and held marriage and baptismal sessions.

Possession of the Inn passed to George Chaffey in 1856. Chaffey was a racing fanatic, who kept a string of race-horses and was a prominent early member of the Casterton Racing Club. Chaffey died tragically in 1860, and his widow, Phillipa, and her second husband, E. C. Courtis, held the licence until it was purchased by Owen O'Reilly, around 1870. O'Reilly rebuilt the Glenelg Inn at a cost of £2,000.

James Gray purchased the Inn in June 1874, and subsequently sold it at auction to Charles Whitpaine in August 1882. Whitpaine held possession for a mere three months before selling out to Thomas Burt, at what the Casterton News of the time admiringly referred to as "a very considerable profit".

Burt possessed a true spirit of adventure and unflappable optimism. During his ten years of occupancy, he was behind the formation, and subsequent collapse, of several gold and silver companies, which hoped to strike it rich in the Dergholm/Roseneath area.

Burt was succeeded as owner of the Glenelg Inn by Joseph Leake, around 1892. Leake sold to Thomas

Carroll in May 1902. A number of publicans played host at the hotel during Carroll's twenty-odd years of ownership. No doubt the most significant development during this period was the erection of the present double storey brick building. Constructed in 1906, the year of the great Casterton flood, the building originally featured a magnificent verandah.

Ownership of the hotel passed to Bert Tucker in the early 1920's, before it was purchased by the Ballarat Brewing Company, in the mid-1930's. This company maintained ownership until recent times. More than fifteen publicans featured at the hotel during those years. Records of the licensees are unavailable. The present licensees are Adrian and Kara Mayer.

Kent After Dinner

Extracts from Jim's after dinner talk:

Among those assembled here tonight are descendants of people who in past years were very closely associated with the hotel in various manners.

Dick and Wilma Chaffey; 150 years ago, George Chaffey was in possession.

Dawn Anson whose grandmother was married in the hotel building that then stood on this site.

The Carrolls owned it for some 20 years or more. I used to spread supper for Harold Carroll; a son of the owners, he used to live on a property out on the Cavendish Road from Coleraine.

Descendants of Shingler Jack and Ellen Richardson are here. Jack and Ellen were married in this hotel.

Some time back I wrote to the Justice Department in Melbourne. They are the people who control the issue of all manner of licenses. The license for the sale of fermented and spiritous liquor has to come from this body. What I wanted from them was a list of the names of people who have held the license to sell liquor in this hotel. From past dealings with them I was aware that a search fee of \$8.50 would apply to my enquiry. So, I enclosed a \$10.00 note to cover this expense and awaited their reply. Now fair dinkum, you will find this hard to believe. Their reply stated that they didn't have any records of the licensees and they suggested I look it up in the old copies of the local paper or ask the *local historical society!* (They kept the ten dollars).

I can only go back to the 1930's in my memory. The then licensee was no other than that flamboyant and colourful character, Bert Tucker; better known as Banger. He was a plumber by trade. My first memories



Glenelg Inn - 1873



Grays Glenelg Inn - 1874

Jack "The Shingler" Richardson

John Thomas Richardson was a convict exile from Brighton, England who arrived in Casterton in 1846. At the time of his arrival there were possibly only a dozen people in the township.

He had a hand in the erection of the first building, being the Glenelg Inn. One report states that in 1905, Jack watched the thatched roof burn on the hotel yet the 1905 photo of the hotel shows it to have a galvanised iron roof.

He married Ellen Curran in the original building on 3rd November 1851. This was one of the earliest marriages in Casterton. We know that he had to send to Portland for a Priest to perform the ceremony. During his early years he was a cook at Wando Vale Station; he went to the goldfields for a time and helped to build many of the original buildings in the town.

John and Ellen's first child Mary, is said to be the first white child born in Casterton. They went on to have 10 children in total. They were: Mary (Ayres), John Richardson, William Richardson, Alice (Lawrence), Arabella (Campbell), Ellen (Shipham), Edwin Richardson, Phillipina (Towart), Walter Richardson, and Henry Richardson.

The couple were married for 56 years when Ellen died in 1907. John, himself, died aged 90 on 3rd November 1910, his and Ellen's wedding anniversary.

One record states that their Golden Wedding was celebrated at the Glenelg Inn. The photograph on page 5 was taken at the Oddfellows Hall.

As "Jack The Shingler" was a pioneer of the Casterton Township, local descendants of his, along with The Casterton & District Historical Society, are interested in restoring his grave site as this has only previously been marked by a small white cross.

List of Guests that attended the Anniversary Dinner on 15th September 2006

Guests of Honour:

Mr. Hugh Delahunty
Mrs. Judy Delahunty

Guest Speakers.

Mr. Ewan Neeson
Mr. James Kent.

Office Holders of the Casterton and District Historical Society:

Jan Lier, President; Cheryl Elmes, Secretary; Basil Stafford, Publicity Officer.

Aileen Neeson, Ron & Alwyn Barrow, Anne Pekin, Paddy Neeson, Cr .Tom & Val Munro, Kath Astbury, Daryl & Erica Povey, Vern & Jackie McCallum, Dick & Wilma Chaffey, Dawn Anson, Neville & Marilyn Wombwell, Mr. & Mrs. K. Dancey, Dawn Mill, Des & Joyce Murphy, Joan Bilston, Graeme Henty-Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Meyer, Cr. Karen Stephens, Helen Kearney, & partner, Trish & David Martin, Roly Cooper, Alistair Boyle, Bec & Georgia Mc Lellan, Karl Hatton, Dimity Phillips, Katrina Hedditch, Alistair Roper, Bryan & Jan Denton, Trisha & Graeme Pitkin, Sophia Holm, Kaye Annett.

Key to photograph on page 5.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Shingler John J. Richardson | 14) Amy Black |
| 2) Ellen Richardson (nee Curran) | 15) Samuel Hill |
| 3) John Thomas Richardson (Son) | 16) Ellen (Nell) Hill |
| 4) Mary Anne (Polly) Ayres (nee Richardson) | 17) Maude Lehane |
| 5) Minnie Bowden (nee Ayres) | 18) Jack Lehane |
| 6) Gladys Baldwin (nee Bowden) | 19) Alf Ayres |
| 7) Katie Amber Shepherd | 20) Dick Ayres |
| 8) Baby Thomas Richardson | 21) Jack Ayres |
| 9) Mary Richardson | 22) <i>(Can anyone identify this person?)</i> |
| 10) Baby Arthur Hill | 23) Annie Mapperson |
| 11) <i>(Can anyone identify this person?)</i> | 24) Ruby Richardson |
| 12) Alice Clark (nee Ayres) | 25) Mabel Ethel Campbell |
| 13) Jillian Knight (nee Ayres) | 26) Vera Campbell |



The Richardson's Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1901.
This picture was taken at the Oddfellows Hall, McPherson Street, Casterton.



Henty After Dinner

Continued from page 2

of him are of a very short rotund gent, fashionably dressed and seated in a sawn off 57 gallon beer keg out on the footpath of Henty Street. No doubt he was “keeping nit” while after hours trade went on. There was a very celebrated “Catholic Hour” conducted in Banger’s Pub every Sunday morning after Mass on the Hill.

Banger had three sons, Reece, Athol and Graeme. Tonight we have in our company, two of Reece’s daughters, Merrilyn and Jan.

The next publican I remember was Arthur Halliwell. Arthur’s barman was Joe Brennan.

By 1940 Ken Whitty and his wife had taken on the licence. By this time the hotel was owned by the Ballarat Brewing Company and their product was dispensed over the bar. The Railway Pub was also owned by the brewery which in turn was owned by a family of Irish descent by the name of Coghlan.

Every month, one of the old Coghlan fellows was chauffeur driven to Casterton, probably to collect the rent. He and his driver would spend the night at the Glenelg Inn and next morning they would drive up to the Railway Pub. The bar would be full of all the old boys from around the town as it was the custom for Coghlan to shout a drink for all those in the bar when he went in. Then the driver would bring him back down to the Glenelg Hotel. The same group that had been up at the Railway would be lined up at the bar of the Glenelg Hotel for another free drink. This action was known in the town as the “Henty Street Handicap”.

Then after that, two old girls took on the licence. One was called Mrs. Hawkes and I can’t remember the other old dear’s name but to the local larrikins they were known as Mrs. Hawkes and Mrs. Hentwhistle after two characters who featured in a serial of that name on the radio. Others called them Ada and Elsie.

In 1945 I went to work in Queensland and so lost track of the licensees. I do remember one publican who was here when I came back for a week or so in 1949. He was Dave Pattison. I think he had Laurie Nash in tow when he wasn’t playing football for Casterton.

In the early 1950s we see a Mrs. Walters and her son Bruce in charge.

Various tenants occupied the 2 shops that stood where the motel units are now; grocers, hairdressers,

transport depots and so on. In Tyers Street was the old blacksmith’s shop; George Edrich the last tenant in it. As far back as 1870, rooms here were used as a store and a post office. My grandmother on dad’s side and her two sisters had a dressmaking room in the building.

Eric and Vesper Birbeck took over from the Walters I believe. Without doubt the Birbecks revolutionised this hotel. They were the first to introduce counter meals, to establish motel units and to have a late license for a dinner dance. They dismantled the dilapidated buildings that were here. Eric was a colourful character. Always immaculately dressed he was noted for his use of rather large and eye catching bow ties.

Eric and Vesper were greatly assisted in the day to day running of the hotel by the one and only Ramona. Nothing was a bother to her at any time; she was there to give assistance to all who sought help.

Footballer Ted Rippon was another notable person to hold the license before moving to Melbourne.

We note that over the years several locals have had their name over the bar doors: Brian and Jan Denton ran it for a time; several of my daughters held their wedding receptions here. John and Jessie Garlton once held sway here.

As you have heard, there have been three buildings on this site over the years. The first one, built by McKinlay, was constructed with timber slabs from Tasmania brought by via Portland to Casterton. The photographs of the second building suggest that it was constructed from some type of stone. Reports are conflicting but possibly the second building did burn, necessitating the rebuilding in 1906. During John Gartlan’s tenure, the upstairs section of the hotel was subjected to fire. Fortunately, quick work by the local urban fire brigade saw the fire extinguished without a great deal of damage.

One hundred years ago, there were six hotels in Casterton: The Bridge Inn (1880) the only hotel ever to be on the eastern side of the river; the Glenelg of course; The Plough Inn where Barney McArlein now has his undertaking business; George Grant’s Albion (1865); Bearcroft Dancocks at the Casterton Hotel in 1867 and the Travellers Arms (later the Railway Hotel) where Elders are now.

From McKinlays’s death onwards it would seem that this hotel had many owners; some for a short time, some for decades. Tonight we wish Adrian and Kara Meyer all the best for the future.

Jim Kent, September 2006.



Back Row: Mr. and Mrs. Col Lawrence.
Front Row (left to right) Mrs. Ellen Richardson (nee Curran), Mr. John Richardson (Jack the Shingler), Mary Ellen Ayres (nee Richardson - first white child born in Casterton), Mr. Alf Ayres.



Pre 1930

***Society Meeting Times and Dates,
With Guest Speakers for 2006/7:***

Meetings held at the R.S.L. Rooms
Henty Street, Casterton.

Wednesday 18th October 2006 at 7.00 pm

Ross Davidson, Talk on Quarry at Wando Vale

Sunday 22nd, Visit to Quarry with Ross Davidson

Wednesday 15th November 2006 at 7.00 pm

Dinner Meeting - **Ms. Joan Hunt**

December 2006 and January 2007 - No Meeting

Wednesday 21st February 2007 at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21st March 2007 at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 7.00 pm

Reminder

General Meetings of the Casterton and District Historical Society will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesdays from September to May

President: Jan Lier

Publicity Officer: Basil Stafford

Secretary: Cheryl Elmes

Treasurer: Patricia Pitkin

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Cheryl Elmes and Jim Kent

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Any material for inclusion can be left at P.O. Box 48 or passed to Basil Stafford or Jan Lier. Any ideas or comments always welcome at P.O. Box 186

You can email Jan and Cheryl via the Ballarat Genealogy Web site.

Publications for Sale

Casterton Historical Street Walk
"From Flour Mill to Glenelg Inn - \$10.00

Extracts from the Casterton and District Historical Society Inc. 1966-1996 - \$10.00

Corndale State School Honour Board Booklet \$7.00

Casterton Cenotaph WWI soldiers - \$20.00

Casterton Cenotaph WWII soldiers - \$10.00

Major Norman McDonald
Photograph Album CD - \$20.00

History in the Depths – Gallipoli – DVD - \$20.00

Vern McCallum Photographs CDs
Casterton High School - \$20.00

Vern McCallum Historic Photograph Booklets
Digby, volumes 1 and 2 - \$30.00 each

Heywood, volumes 1 and 2

The Saw mills, volumes 1 and 2

Vintage Tools of Trade - \$10.00

Newsletters of the Casterton and District Historical Society 2005 Booklet – Indexed \$10.00

Extracts from Gleanings – \$1.00



Historical Society
Presentations to
ABC Horsham

Note: Casterton will no longer be participating in Historical Talks as from August.

Harrow, Balmoral and possibly Coleraine will continue until November when the Talks will conclude.

An advert from the Casterton News, November 1950

L. H. LIM
HERBALIST
448 Victorie Street, North Melbourne
Phone FJ4367
Visit every 4th Sunday at Glenelg Hotel
Casterton
Next Visit—November 26th. Hours 2p.m.
to 5 p.m.
Consulation Free. All complaints of
both sexes successfully treated