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Historical Happenings

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Casterton and District Historical Society Inc.



Welcome to 2007! We have some work for you to do! Can anyone identify this picture?

Current Happenings

Hello to all, and welcome to our first newsletter for 2007. The newsletter enters its 3rd year, how time flies! The Society hopes that you will continue to support us by buying the newsletter even though it has gone up in price. Unfortunately, the costs of printing the newsletter have increased but we believe that what the newsletter provides on a monthly basis is terrific. Thank you to Alistair Boyle. If it were not for him, the newsletter would not be produced.

So after the long break, what's been happening??? We have some very exciting news with regards to our funding applications. Over the past three months

we have received almost \$15,000 from various organisations; both government and philanthropic sectors. The Public Records Office of Victoria provided a grant through the Local History Grants program of \$2,964.00 to purchase a Microfilm Reader and Printer. We have purchased this and it now awaits use at the Museum, which we will do! - and hopefully many researchers out there as well.

A donation of \$5,000.00 was received from Mr. Geoff Handbury, A.O., Owner/Director of 3HA/Mixx FM, part of the ACE Radio Network to purchase the microfilm of the Coleraine Albion and Casterton Advertiser 1868 to 1882 and the Casterton News from 1882 to 1972. I am pleased to advise you all that these have arrived and we are

very excited about having newspapers dating back to 1868 for research.

The Helen MacPherson Smith Trust has donated \$2,500.00 which will be used to purchase new blinds for the Museum. These are very much needed as the majority of the blinds are falling to bits and we just do not have any blinds on some of the windows. Our local blinds man, Brian Lowe, will be the supplier, so we are keeping the money within the community.

The R.A.C.V. Foundation has donated \$5,000.00 towards purchasing much needed storage and archival materials. We have started to order the various storage units that we need in order to keep the collection safe from temperature, light and humidity.

We are extremely grateful for these organisation's donations and without their help we would not be able to continue our projects at the Museum.

A few of the members and some non members who have an interest in history made a trip to Ballarat and Melbourne in January to the Public Records Office. A great time was had and we have been able to photocopy over 60 inquests relating to Casterton and District. These are currently being indexed by our Secretary Cheryl, and will be available for research in the near future.

The Society will be participating in the Casterton Business and Tourism Association's "Meet and Greet" evening for new residents, and as I am now a resident in Casterton, not only will I be attending but also working there for the Society. Two hats!

We have been invited by the Henty History Group to participate in an exhibition at their "Back to Henty" celebrations in April. We look forward to being involved in this wonderful occasion.

The Friends of the Casterton Old Cemetery are continuing to do wonderful work, and thanks to a grant from the Glenelg Shire Council, a new sign has been erected with the names of all burials with headstones. A morning tea is being organised to celebrate this occasion.

ABC Historical Talks will be continuing this year, with a number of community groups taking part. Listen to 594 AM at 6.15, Monday mornings to hear the history of your town and other towns in the area.

Vern McCallum will be providing a wonderful photographic exhibition in March, over the long weekend. Please support this exhibition by coming to the Museum over the long weekend and PLEASE bring your old photographs for Vern to scan. It is vital that they are preserved for the future generations!!! Please see Page 7 for the dates and

times that Vern will be here in Casterton.

General meetings resume this month and with a busy year ahead, the year will fly by very quickly.

Our Annual dinner will be held at the Albion Hotel in May, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the rebuilding of the hotel. Our guest speakers will be David Grant, descendant of the original owners. Our very own Roly Cooper will also be a guest speaker. I am sure that this will be a great night out.

We will continue to have our field trips for our former State School identification project. Please see Page 6 for details of times, dates and places.

Our A.G.M. will be in July. The A.G.M. was held in previous years in February.

Enough of the prattle!, now for some history!

All the best for 2007.

Jan Lier, President.

Mind your Ps and Qs

We re-visit the origins of some old sayings this month. There are three possibilities submitted here for, "Mind Your Ps and Qs" - anyone who has a different version is most welcome to submit it for inclusion in a future edition of the newsletter.

First off is a version told to me by my Uncle who lived in Wales and having attempted to learn Welsh, took an interest in its roots in Gaelic. Here he learnt of two basic strains of Gaelic that developed in Wales, Ireland and Scotland. One was known as "P" Celt and the other as "Q" Celt. The small letters "p" and "q" in some fonts are a mirror image. As the languages developed, students were advised to mind their ps and qs in the written form. It seems that for a while, the p and q were often confused.

Another version comes from England, although I have no idea from what period in history. In English pubs, ale was ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them, "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down." This was condensed to, "Mind your P's and Q's". I don't think ale has been ordered in quarts (two pints, or just under a litre for our younger readers) for quite a few years now.

This one is a bit thin but has been told to me. One should say please and thank you so be polite when you are out and about. P for please and Q for the way in which thank you comes out sometimes.

Anyway, thank you for reading, please come back!

Alistair Boyle.

Soldier Settlement at Carapook

Carapook, Muntham, Bruk Bruk & Beerik are neighbouring parishes in South-Western Victoria, Australia. Carapook is the name of a small settlement on Sawyers Creek, now called MacPherson Creek, surrounded by rolling hills, between Casterton and Coleraine in south western Victoria. Originally a part of the "Muntham" Pastoral Run settled by the HENTY brothers in 1837, it is defined by the parishes of Bruk Bruk, Beerik, Carapook & Muntham.

The three soldier settlement schemes developed in the Carapook area after World War II were:

· **Bella Vista** (4 farms, 1948) - original owner G. McDonald. Settlers - D Bell, T. Eagleson, F. Kindred, A. Tindall.

· **Tulse Hill** (8 farms, 1948) - original owner Corney. Settlers - B. Beaton, E. Dehnert, M. Harker, C. Miller, H. Nield, A. Proctor, A. Robertson, H. Slight.

· **McNicol's** (18 farms, 1958) - original owner D. McNicol. Settlers - L. Arnold, H. Barby, G. Brooker, A. Burn, W. Day, G. Eldridge, A. Fitzgerald, L. Gibbs, A. Green, W. Kettle, B. Madex, A. McIntosh, D. McKenzie, A. McLeod, A. Murrell, C. Newbold, N. Robb, L. Taylor.

Ian Morton in his introduction to Rosalind Smallwood's book "Hard to go Bung - World War II Soldier Settlement in Victoria 1945 - 1962" noted:

The parents, friends and loved ones of those who fought for Australia during World War II had, without exception, known the sadness, the grief and the loneliness which had followed the loss of so many young men who fell in the slaughter in foreign lands during World War I - the war longingly portrayed as 'the war to end all wars'.

This widely-shared experience resulted in a deep determination that when the young men and women came home to the cherished peace after World War II, there would be something better, whatever the cost, for their fresh start into a new era.

The record levels of unemployment and the paralysis of world trade during the depression of the 1930's and the period before the outbreak of war in 1939 need to be compared the nation's activity in wartime. During World War II everyone had a job

and people largely accepted government direction about getting on with the task of winning the war and achieving the hitherto unparalleled levels of production necessary for victory. With that background plus the little understood but nevertheless important, developments in economic theory, governments developed wide-ranging and essentially practical systems of rehabilitation.

In this new spirit of commitment the Soldier Settlement Commission was established late in 1945. The commission provided ex-servicemen with an opportunity to go on the land on a way that offered the triers a real prospect of success. In the process, new opportunities were also opened up for their partners and their children.

Bella Vista.

Bella Vista is a property located at Carapook between Casterton and Coleraine in the south western district of Victoria. According to a brief article in the "Casterton News" of 27 Jan 1988, George McDONALD acquired the property which became known as Bella Vista when he arrived in the district in 1850 and built the Bella Vista Homestead sometime between 1870 and 1878. He had no children and when he died the property was taken over by John McDONALD, the first head Teacher of Coleraine State School. John, from Nairnshire, Scotland, married Rachel McKenzie at Portland in 1858 and they had 4 children:

John 'Captain Jack' McDONALD, born 1860. Served in the Boer War with the 2nd New Zealand Contingent.

Christina Jamesina McDONALD, born 1866 at Coleraine. Married William McDONALD in 1890 and moved to New Zealand.

George William McDONALD, OBE, born 1870 at Coleraine.

Norman 'Major' McDONALD, born 1872 at Coleraine. Associate Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Melbourne, Country Vet of 'Bella Vista', Carapook.

A section of "Bella Vista" was converted into 4 Soldier Settlement blocks in 1948 with the new owners being: R. Bell, T. Eagleson, F. Kindred and A. Tindall.

Tulse Hill.

"Tulse Hill" was a large property to the north east of Carapook run by the CORNEY family. Thomas POVEY from Digby and Carapook was the Station Overseer in the early 1900's and a number of his sons also worked on the property. A section of this property was divided into eight Soldier Settlement

blocks in 1948 and became known as the "Tulse Hill Estate". The Soldier Settlers on "Tulse Hill" were: B. Beaton, E. Dehnert, M. Harker, C. Miller, H. Nield, A. Proctor, A. Robertson, H. Slight.

McNicol's Estate.

Duncan McNICOL owned a large property at Carapook known as "Phoines" and divided into two main sections. The western section joined "Bella Vista" to the west and contained the homestead whereas the eastern section was to the east of Carapook and joined "Muntham" and "Tulse Hill". Alan & Wal POVEY were two of the POVEY brothers who worked on McNICOL's with Alan working on the property for 32 years after leaving Carapook School. He and his family lived at "Rosedale" on the western section of "Phoines", north west of the village of Carapook and then became manager of the eastern part of the property in the early 1950's where Alan & family lived in the newly built house known as "Mulgowrie" which became the GIBBS house when the property was divided into the 18 Soldiers Blocks in 1958. After the death of Duncan McNICOL in the 1950's the eastern section was purchased by the Soldier Settlement Commission and divided into 18 Soldier Settlement blocks. The new residents were: L. Arnold, H. Barby, G. Brooker, A. Burn, W. Day, G. Eldridge, A. Fitzgerald, L. Gibbs, A. Green, W. Kettle, B. Madex, A. McIntosh, D. McKenzie, A. McLeod, A. Murrell, C. Newbold, N. Robb, L. Taylor.

Taken from Ballarat Genealogy website, webmaster Daryl Povey.

The Changes in Time *By Des Murphy.*

Part 13.

As the years went by, units of the Casterton Group and their radio system went from strength to strength because the people who started it back in 1954 built it to pass the test of time. Now, every unit has some communication device fitted in it.

In the Langkoop-Poolaijelo-Dergholm area, the disastrous bush fire on January 2nd 1955 was the Shire's worst. It will long be remembered as, "Black Sunday". The losses were heavy, including 19,000 sheep, 230 cattle, 27,500 acres of heavy grassland, 15,000 acres of light country and thousands of acres of light scrub country. Hundreds of men attended working bees to assist landowners with maimed livestock and to burn the remains.

The next major change in life was the coming of the

S.E.C. About 90% of rural holdings were powered with private generators. In some cases entire small towns were powered by generators. The S.E.C. started to supply power to the south west corner of the state in 1962. As a result living standards were raised. A host of luxuries never seen before became available; heating, cooling, and lighting. The welder was a beauty; no engine to start!

One day we saw the new section bridge over the Glenelg river. Seventy years ago I stood at the same place with Miss Hope my teacher and the other pupils of the Dergholm state school. Mr. Minougue the foreman and bridge builder explained to us how they were building the new bridge. As Joyce drove back to the Dergholm Road, memories started flooding back: I started school 70 years ago with Ray Ted. I started contracting hay cutting for O'Humphries over the river in 1945. In 1948, the Dergholm Road was sealed only as far Nangeela. Now it goes to the South Australian border.

When we drove back to Casterton I saw, "Glenerin" my home for 26 years. Then on to 198 Henty Street where the traffic is now heavy; b double trucks by the score heading to bigger cities to deliver their loads. Memories of my trucking days and the old road system that we used. The steep terrain of the Western District, the rough gravel roads; the turns on and off every bridge and the low horse power petrol trucks. In the summer we had to wind down the windows and *sometimes* the wind was cool. My Austin truck had all of those virtues and more. In 1952 we carted 1,500 bales of wool to Melbourne and Geelong and 24 miles of this was gravel road in the Skipton area. Compared with this, in 1967, a drought year, Charley and I carted several loads of cattle north of Dubbo, N.S.W. And we brought hay back in an International truck that was very efficient.

Over the years, roads have improved a tremendous amount; Campbell Cutting and the Muntham Hill. The sharp turns on and off bridges have gone, the grades are even in the hill country and all the main roads are two lane.

Like the roads, the trucks have improved tremendously as well; better brakes, better tyres and air suspension. The IAN four decker, forty three feet long and 500 horse power handles like a car.

Continued next month.....

Casterton and District Historical Society

Calendar of Events for 2007

- **January** 8th and 9th - Trip to Public Records Office, Ballarat.
- **February** 9th - Welcome New Residents Evening.
- **March** 10th, 11th, 12th - Scanning Historic Photographs and Exhibition with Vern McCallum, Casterton Community Museum 11 am to 7 pm Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 3 pm Monday.
- **March** 25th - Field Trip to Nareen, Tarrayoukyan and Wando Heights - Identification of former State School sites project.
- **April** 22nd - Field Trip to Carapook, Bruk Bruk, Muntham and Sandford - Identification of former State School sites project.
- **May** 5th and 6th - Scanning Historic Photographs and Exhibition with Vern McCallum, Sandford Hotel 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm Sunday.
- **May** 19th - Annual Dinner - Albion Hotel - 100th anniversary of current building.
- **May** 27th - Field Trip to Brimboal, Wando and Powers Creek - Identification of former State School sites project.
- **June** 18th - General Meeting - Sandford Hotel - Guest speaker Trish Martin (new owner).
- **July** 16th - AGM, RSL Rooms, Casterton, 2 pm Guest speaker TBC
- **August** 20th - General Meeting 2 pm Merino Hotel - Guest speaker TBC
- **August** 25th and 26th - Vern McCallum Historic Photographic Exhibition at Digby.
- **September** 23rd - Field trip to Henty, Wurt Wurt Koort, Merino Downs, Glenorchy and Merino - Identification of former State School sites project.
- **October** 21st - Field trip to Grassdale, Paschendale and Tahara - Identification of former State School sites project.
- **November** 17th and 18th - Back to Sandford weekend with scanning sessions and Exhibition Vern McCallum.
- **November** 21st - End of year dinner - Sandford Hotel - 7 pm Guest Speaker TBC

Back to Sandford Yahoo Group:

<http://au.ph.groups.yahoo.com/group/backtosandford/>

Back to Sandford 2007

17th and 18th November



Sandford is a quiet village on the Wannon river just a couple of minutes drive from Casterton. Set amongst rolling hills, this quaint little town once boasted three Hotels.

On the 17th and 18th of November 2007 the town of Sandford will celebrate it's Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary.

The weekend is set to be an enjoyable one for young and old with something for everyone.

Come and see why Sandford is the place in everyone's hearts!

Highlights

- .. Vern Mc Callum Photographic Exhibition.
- .. Back to Ball.
- .. Guest Speakers.
- .. Commemorative Oak Tree Planting.
- .. Old style Picnic.
- .. Face painting.
- .. Music and Entertainment.
- .. Lots more...

**For more information please contact:
Trish Martin
Phone: 0355 81 1428**

Vern McCallum



Scanning sessions and exhibitions
2007:

- March 10th, 11th and 12th ~
Scanning Historic Photographs and
Exhibition at Casterton Community
Museum 11 am till 7 pm Sat and
Sunday and 11 am till 3 pm Monday.
- May 5th and 6th ~
Scanning Historic Photographs at
The Old Sandford Pub. 10 am till 4pm
Saturday and 10 am till 3 pm Sunday.
- August 25th and 26th
Digby Exhibition.
- November 17th and 18th ~
Back to Sandford weekend with
Scanning Sessions and Exhibition.
Hope to see you there!

***Society Meeting Times and Dates,
With Guest Speakers for 2007:***

(guest speakers have not yet been finalised)

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

Wednesday 21st February 2007 at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21st March 2007 at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 16th May 2007 at 7.00 pm

Monday 18th June 2007 at 2.00 pm
(* at the Sandford Hotel *)

Monday 16th July 2007 at 2.00 pm (AGM)

Monday 20th August 2007 at 2.00 pm
(* at the Merino Hotel *)

Wednesday 19th September at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 17th October at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21st November at 7.00 pm

We will publish a reminder in April and May about the change over to winter meeting times.

The February Meeting is at 7.00 pm

President: Jan Lier

Publicity Officer: Basil Stafford

Secretary/Treasurer: Cheryl Elmes

Contacts:

Cheryl Elmes and Jim Kent

P.O. Box 48, Casterton, Victoria 3311

Newsletter Layout: Alistair Boyle

P.O. Box 186, Casterton, Victoria, 3311

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

Vintage Tools of Trade - \$10.00

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

Extracts from Gleanings – \$1.00

Contact Jan (03) 5581 - 2743 (note change of
number)

The Olde Joke

Going back to my uncle, the one who told me about the "P" Celts and the "Q" Celts, (see page 2) we had been discussing this subject whilst taking a long walk in a National Park Forest near Aberystwyth, Wales. This was about 8 years or more ago. As sometimes happens on these trips out, we both needed to go to the lavatory to spend a penny. The forestry commission had had the foresight to build a convenience in the middle of the forest and so we went in.

Thinking about it, the phrase, "spend a penny" may need some explaining too. In Britain a few years ago, one had to put a penny in the slot to open the cubicle door in the lavatory. This was a tax on women who always had to use a cubicle; men could use the other facility for free. Anyway, spending a penny means going to the loo. Back to the joke.

My uncle and I were using the convenience when he began to look thoughtful and said, "I've just had a thought. We're in here using the loo, so we are the "P" Celts. There are some people outside waiting, so they must be the "Q" Celts!!

Alistair Boyle.