

# Historical Happenings

**Volume 3  
Issue 3**

**April  
2007**

## Casterton and District Historical Society Inc.

In the April editions of the newsletter in 2005 and 2006 we wrote about Gallipoli. As bad as Gallipoli undoubtedly was, I think it is fitting to remember also the sacrifice of those Australians who fought on the European Western Front. Such was Australia's contribution there is only room here to deal with 1916 - the facts from that year alone are staggering - we may cover other years in later issues of the newsletter.

Source: [www.ciaops.com/guides/battle/](http://www.ciaops.com/guides/battle/)

It would be difficult these days to find an Australian who hasn't heard of Gallipoli. What many Australians fail to realise is that after this bitter and bloody campaign against Turkey, many of these same troops were sent to France to fight on the Western Front of WWI. It is here that they made a significant contribution to the defeat of the German forces who had invaded France in 1914.

28th June 1914 - Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria - Hungary and his wife, were assassinated in Sarajevo the capital of Bosnia.

4th August 1914 - Germany invades Belgium in plans to encircle and cut off Paris. Doing so they move through Belgium and northern France. The invasion of Belgium causes England to declare war on Germany.

12th August 1914 - 100,000 troops of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) are rushed to France. They are deployed in the North of France and Belgium (near Ypres). They stop the German advance at Mons and Le Cateau.

All sides are now forced to dig in on what became known as the the Western Front. It ran from the North Sea, at the port of Nieuport Belgium, 800 kilometres south to Switzerland.

The cost of these encounters was horrific. The British lost 2,368 officers and 55,787 men in the first battle of Ypres.



25th April 1915 - Australian troops land at Gallipoli.

19th December 1915 - Australia commences withdrawal from Gallipoli.

20th December 1915 - At 4.10 am last Australian leaves Gallipoli.

Losses. Australia: 8,709 killed, 664 officers and 17,260 enlisted men wounded.

New Zealand: 2,500 killed, 5,000 wounded

Prisoners: less than 70.

After escaping the horrors of Gallipoli the Anzac troops were redeployed to France to fight the Germans. The only units not sent to the Western Front were the light horse which remained in the Middle East. By July 1916 there were more than 90,000 Australians on the Western Front, another 90,000 training in England while about 25,000 remained in the Middle East.

13th March 1916 - The 1st Anzac Corps, composed of the Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions along with the New Zealand Division begin to sail from Egypt to France under the command of General Birdwood. The 2nd Anzac Corps, composed of the Australian 4th and 5th Divisions remains in Egypt, under General Godley.

19th March 1916 - Troopships carrying the Australian 1st and 2nd Division arrive in Marseilles in the south of France. The Australian troops are then moved by rail north to the battlefields. The Australian troops are billeted in the St Omer-Aire-Hazebrouck region of French Flanders which was known as the "Nursery".

1st April 1916 - Australian reconnaissance parties enter the line for the first time.

7th April 1916 - Australian 2nd Division begins to take over a sector of the front lines. By the end of the next week the Australian 1st Division is entering the line also just south of the already committed Australian 2nd Division.

Mid April, 1916 - Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions are committed in the line at Fleurbaix, just south of the manufacturing town Armentières, with a population of about 30,000 on the Lys River near the Belgium border. They replace the British II Corps and have command of the area south east of Armentières.

The first Australian casualties of the Western Front occur when 2 officers and 72 men of the 9th (Queensland) Battalion are killed or wounded when German shells hit farmhouses they are sheltering in.

25th June 1916 - First Australian Victoria Cross on the Western Front. Captain K. Heritage leads 8 officers and 73 others, all volunteers from the 5th Brigade to harass enemy positions at Bois Grenier, near Armentières. Awards: Private John William Alexander Jackson, 17th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division - Victoria Cross.

1st July 1916 - First battle of the Somme commences. Britain loses 20,000 killed and 40,000 wounded after the offensive is proceeded by 9 days of shelling.

5th July 1916 - Australian 4th and 5th Divisions relieve the 1st and 2nd Divisions in the Nursery.

19th July 1916 - Australian 1st Division enters the rear area of Albert in preparation for action at Pozières .

19th July 1916 - Battle of Fleurbaix commences near Fromelles. The Australian 5th Division is committed in a poorly planned and executed attempt to take German trench lines. The attack on Fromelles, or the Battle of Fleurbaix, was the brainchild of the British General Sir Richard Haking. Into the battle was thrust the Australian 5th Division under the command of the Australian Major-General J. W. McKay along with the British 61st. The plan called for the capture of enemy positions that protected Fromelles. In 1915 the British had attempted two similar attacks and had been defeated heavily. They attempted again in June 1916 with much the same result. The Germans held the higher ground that overlooked the plain. The key German position was "Sugar Loaf", a salient that jutted out from the German lines. Barrage began at 11 am. The Australian 5th Division attacked at 9pm supported by the British 61st Division. The Australian 15th Brigade quickly became pinned in no man's land in front of Sugar Loaf. The Australian 8th and 14th Brigades to the left of the Australian 15th captured 800 metres of the enemy front line trench. The ineffective penetration of the Australian 15th Brigade towards Sugar Loaf left the right flank of the Australian 14th Brigade exposed to the

Germans who still occupied Sugar Loaf.

The British 61st Division, to the right of the Australian 15th Brigade, who had also failed to make any positive gains towards Sugar Loaf now planned another attack. The British asked the already heavily strained Australian 15th Brigade to assist at 9.00 pm as dusk fell. A brave attempt was made by half of the Australian 58th Battalion lead by Major A. J. S. Hutchinson, however the attack by the British 61st Division had been cancelled but news of this didn't reach the Australians in time. The attack by the Australians was doomed from the start and many more men, including Major Hutchinson, were killed.

General Haking now decided to withdraw all troops to the old front line trenches and renew the attack the next day. However, German forces who had been driven from the line attempted to recapture both flanks of the Australian lines. On the right flank the old German front line trench had been left empty in accordance with orders that once the trenches were cleared the troops were to advance. The Bavarian troops from Sugar Loaf were able to occupy these empty trenches. The German troops now stood between the Australian 8th Brigade and the original Australian lines. The Australians realised the situation and counter-attacked the Germans and managed to stop the enemy from infiltrating further but were unable to drive them out.

It was now night and all troops tried to improve their defences while others tried to reinforce. The inexperience and eagerness of the Australian troops became evident when most of the parties carrying supplies forward stayed to fight with their mates, rather than return for more supplies.

At 2.00 am the forward commander of the Australian 14th Brigade realised that this right flank was exposed to his enemy. Now the Bavarians attacked again and forced their way further behind the Australian 14th Brigade. Australian troops now found themselves being fired from both the front and rear. The Australian troops continued to hold their positions in an ever more doomed situation. By morning the only option was to charge the German troops holding the old German front lines behind the Australians in an effort to return to their lines.

By 3.45 am the Australians who were left were now fighting their way back through German lines, making a charge back to their original battle starting positions. By 5.45 am on the 20th of July, the Australian 8th Brigade was forced out of the German lines. By 8.00 am, the general order to withdraw had been given. However, many Australian troops remained cut off and unable to break out, they continued fighting until

finally silenced about 9.20 am.

The battle at Fromelles was the *only* battle in which the AIF fought in the Western Front that failed to produce a positive result. Much of the blame for this was placed on poor planning and execution of the British High command, supposedly "professional" soldiers. The battle put the Australian 5th Division out of offensive action for many months.

20th July 1916 - Battle of Fleurbaix ceases. The Australian 5th Division loses 5,333 officers and men, and 400 prisoners in a 27 hour period. Heavy losses are evidenced by the 60th Battalion (Victoria) which commenced the battle with 887 men and when finished had only 1 officer and 106 men.

Losses :

Australian: 5,533 killed or wounded - 400 prisoners.

British: 1,547 killed or wounded.

Germans: 1,500 killed or wounded.

23rd July 1916 - Australian 1st Division commences action at Pozières. The capture of the heights of Thiepval to the north of the town Pozières needed to be made from German hands. From July 13 - 15, 1916 the British had made 4 attacks at Pozières. The final attack, after artillery had reduced the village to rubble made no gain and cost the British 12,000 men.

Just south of Pozières the British attack had pressed forward just enough to create a salient in the German lines. This meant that a fresh attack could be made from both the west and south. The Australian 1st Division was to make the attack from the south on 23rd July 1916. The initial object was to capture the German trenches between the Albert Road and OG1 (Old German Lines 1) and then capture the village. The Australians would have the British 48th Division in support on their left. At 12.28 am the Australian 1st and 3rd Brigades of 1st Division attacked and seized the front German positions after bombardment from the field artillery. Thirty minutes later they attacked again after bombardment from the field artillery. This second stage brought the troops to hedges just outside Pozières. They continued their third phase of the attack to the road through the village as the Germans fell back. The Germans counter-attacked at dawn but were shot to pieces. The Australians had now taken all the objectives they were set except for the old German lines (OG1). As artillery had turned the area into a virtual moonscape, locating objectives and finding exact positions became extremely difficult. The Germans had also decreed that any ground lost was to be retaken at once, at any cost. During 23rd July most of the Australian forward troops deepened their trenches in preparation for a German counter attack. Captain E.E. Herrod and Lieutenant W.L. Waterhouse of the 2nd Battalion, with 15 men,

captured the German strong point known to the British as "Gibraltar" which was considered by the British as impregnable.

With the leading strong position neutralized the task of moving through the village was given to the 8th Battalion of the 2nd Brigade on 24th July, 1916. After 3 days of battle, on the 27th of July, the 1st Division lost 5,285 officers and men and was replaced by the Australian 2nd Division, commanded by Major General Legge. The Pozières area was the only place in which any ground had been gained on a 2.5 kilometre front of General Haig's attack on the German IV Corps.

The OG lines could now be seen from the eastern edge of Pozières, with the first belt of wire 800 metres to the north and east of the forward Australian positions. On 4th August 1916, OG1 was rushed at 9.15 am. At 9.30 am OG2 was rushed. A small party of the 27th and 28th Battalion, led by Captain Maitland Foss captured the "Windmill Site" on 5th August 1916. The Germans counter-attacked with artillery on the night of 6th August 1916 preventing the Australian 2nd Division being relieved by the Australian 4th Division. At 4.00 am the Germans recaptured OG2 and several dugouts in OG1, however after some inspired bravery from Lieutenant Jacka, the Australians successfully counter-attacked. The Germans were repulsed.

On 6th August 1916, after 10 days of fighting, the Australian 2nd Division had lost 6,848 officers and men and was replaced by the Australian 4th Division, commanded by British Major General H.V. Cox. The severity of these losses is reflected by units such as the 28th Battalion of the 8th Brigade which was reduced to 130 men from 800 and the 27th Battalion which was left with 100 survivors.

Even in face of such slaughter British General Gough still wanted to capture Thiepval. The Australian 4th Division was ordered to proceed north along the Pozières ridge and capture Mouquet Farm rather than continue west through the German OG lines. The Division entered the battle on 6th August 1917.

On 7th and 8th August, 1916, deep in enemy lines, Captain Harry Murray of the 13th Battalion captured 200 metres of the Fabeck Graben Trench. Murray had to eventually withdraw after heavy counter-attacks. On the night of 10th August 1916 Australian patrols pushed out and established posts in the valley south of Mouquet Farm. The 16th Battalion also captured Point 78 but was unable to capture Mouquet Farm. After fierce fighting with little gain, on 21st August 1916 the Australian 4th

Division was replaced after sustaining 4,649 casualties, with the Australian 1st Division to continue the attack on Mouquet Farm. The Australian 1st Division returned to the front line a full one-third under strength after the losses it had sustained a few days earlier. The Australian 1st Division made some ground but lost 92 officers and 2,558 men and as such was now virtually destroyed. The Australian 2nd Division was now returned to the battle to replace the remnants of the Australian 1st Division, however it fared little better. In 4 days the Australian 2nd Division lost 1,268 men and had to be replaced by the Australian 4th Division which continued the attacks on Mouquet Farm on August 27th and 29th 1916 but failed to take the position from the German defenders.

The last Australian attack on Pozières was on 3rd September 1916. The Australian 1st, 2nd and 4th Divisions had been used by their commanders as a battering ram and lost nearly 23,000 officers and men in a mere 6 weeks on a front that extended little more than a mile. This casualty figure represented 50% of the total of all 3 divisions strength.

Awards: Lieutenant Arthur Seaforth Blackburn, 10th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division - Victoria Cross. Private Thomas Cooke, 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division - Victoria Cross. Private John Leak, 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division - Victoria Cross. Sergeant Claud Charles Castleton, 5th Machine Gun Company, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division - Victoria Cross. Private Martin O'Meara, 16th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 4th Division - Victoria Cross.

Total losses for the 6 week period : 1st Division: 7,000. 2nd Division: 8,100. 4th Division: 7,100.

5th September, 1916. Canadian troops relieve Australian troops at Pozières. Australians now withdrawn from the Somme and sent north to the Ypres salient in Flanders.

8th September, 1916. Canadians lost Fabeck Graben Trench, earlier captured by the Australians near Mouquet Farm, after a German counter-attack.

26th September, 1916. Mouquet Farm finally captured.

5th November 1916 - 2 attacks made by Australians at Gueudecourt and Flers.

November 14, 1916 - Australians attack Flers.

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In the 4 years of War approximately 416,809 Australians had joined up and of these 313,814 had embarked for duty overseas. 65% of these were killed or wounded compared to 51% for Britain, 50% for Canada and 59% for New Zealand. Nearly

40% of all Australian males aged 18 - 44 voluntarily enlisted. One in five, or 63,163 died on active service during the war.

Of the 313,814 who embarked from Australia, approximately 295,000 served on the Western Front. 53,000 died in France and Belgium, 18,000 have no known grave, 152,171 were wounded. Between 27th March and 5th October 1918, the AIF made up less than 10 % of combined forces but captured 23% of the prisoners, 23.5% of the enemy guns and 21.5% of the ground taken from the Germans.



*Gallipoli Campaign* - 9 Victoria Cross recipients.



*Western Front Campaign* - 52 Victoria Cross recipients.



*Palestine Campaign* - 1 Victoria Cross recipient.



## The VC Corner Cemetery

The VC Corner cemetery is unique amongst cemeteries of the region because it has no gravestones and contains only Australians. On the wall at the rear are the names of 1,299 Australians who died in the battle and have no known grave.

The unidentified bodies of 410 are buried in the lawns, each marked by a rose bush. The cemetery was situated in no-man's land between the Australian and German lines in 1916.



The inscription on the screen wall reads :

"In honour of the 410 unknown Australian soldiers here buried, who were among the 1,299 Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Australian Imperial Force, killed in the Attack on Fromelles July 19th and 20th, 1916."

For many that never returned may their memory live on through their deeds.

*Lest we Forget*

## *The Vern McCallum Collection*

May 5th and 6th this year see another scanning session and exhibition of Historic Photographs with Vern McCallum at the Sandford Hotel. (Please see calendar of events on page 7 for details). With this in mind we are publishing the history behind Vern's involvement with this extremely good collection.

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"I started collecting old photos approximately 35 years ago when I came across an old post card of Digby that had a photo of my great grand father's wheelwrights shop in it. It was so small that I wanted to get an enlarged photo of a part of the postcard with the shop in it. I talked to Ernest Cameron who was a professional photographer in Hamilton. He suggested that I start to develop my own photos, get close up lenses and copy that part of the photo that I was interested in. So began a lifetime of collecting and copying old photos. After showing the photos that I had collected at the Back To Digby in 1977 and doing the photos for the 'Back To' book, the collection really started to take off. Locals around the Digby / Merino area freely lent their photos to be copied and put on display.

Over the years the collection has grown to some 9000 photos which are displayed in the Digby Hall on the last weekend of August each year. The photos that are not on display boards are available in books. These photos are approximately three inches by four inches and are also held on computers so that people can see any photo in the collection.

At the annual display at Digby, people numbers vary from approximately 250 to 500 for the weekend depending on what else is on in the area. People come from far and wide - Melbourne, Adelaide; some even from Queensland.

On the internet, it is much easier to advertise the collection and what it is doing. I also get contacts and information on the whereabouts of new photos to add to the collection. It is an ongoing project that will never end. Hopefully some one will take over when I have finished through old age or whatever.

The sole aim of this collection is to preserve our pictorial history. Just as important is the information that goes with the photos so that the generations to come can learn from and enjoy this view into our past. The collection includes photos from 1859 to 1960.

Over the years I have been privileged to copy many family's personal photos which have been put into the collection to be preserved for future generations.

There are many more gems out there to be included in the collection if we have the finances and time to collect and catalogue them. Over the past 35 years I personally have put over one hundred and forty thousand dollars into building this collection. In the end the collection will be given to the historical societies in the Western District. A copy of the collection, in whatever format is available at the time, will go to the State Library or a similar organization in the state. One set is to be kept locally in the Western District so that it is always available to the descendents of the people who have made this collection possible.

The method of collecting the photos and information has changed over the years. Photos were once photographed, the negatives developed in the darkroom, the photos printed and then laminated for display. Now the photos are scanned in to the computer, the information stored with the photo for easy access in different folders and the photos printed by the computer for display. The equipment is increasingly getting more expensive with the need for computers, scanners, external hard drives to store massive amounts of data and printers. The costs to keep the Collection going over the foreseeable future, not even allowing for travelling etc. are going to increase. We are going to have to get help to continue this vital project.

The support for the project in the area has grown considerably over the years. The Digby hall committee uses the annual exhibition as its main fundraiser and with a lot more community involvement it will continue to grow. The collection's photos are shown at other community events as well. In the past year the photos that relate to the area in which they are being displayed have been shown at: The Heywood Wood Wine And Roses, The Australian Metalworkers Picnic day at Portland, Old Bush Days at Milltown (the proceeds of which are given to the Royal Children's Hospital) and the Portland Primary school 150 years reunion. The photos are also left at the old folks homes at Casterton, Heywood, and Portland for the residents to look at and enjoy.

The Collection is also used in many local books as recourse to find photos for local writers of historical records and it is envisaged that over the years this will become more important.

Vern McCallum

email: [vmac@mccallum-collection.org](mailto:vmac@mccallum-collection.org)

website: [www.mccallum-collection.org](http://www.mccallum-collection.org)



## Future Happenings

Leading on from our article about Vern's collection, the Historical Society is pleased to announce news of planned collaboration with the Casterton Pastoral and Agricultural Society. This will be in two parts. The Historical Society will be sponsoring a new photographic section at this year's P & A Show in November (see calendar of events). This will be for, "Best Photograph of an Historic Building in the Casterton and District area." Vern McCallum will be the judge. (We think that as he has poured over 9,000 photographs he will be well placed!!)

It is also planned that Vern will exhibit his collection at the show. This cannot be confirmed yet as plans are still being made but we see no reason why this should not take place. Watch this space. If this goes ahead, there will be an entry fee (over and above entry to the show) of \$2.00 to see the collection. It has to be stressed that Vern does not make any money out of this venture. Any income received goes back into furthering and improving the collection. The entry fee will cover the cost of hire of a marquee etc.

We will confirm all arrangements at a later date.

## Recent Happenings



On Sunday 25th March, members of the historical society had a day out in the Tarrayoukyan, Nareen and Koolomurt area to identify the sites of former state schools in the area. Ewen Neeson very kindly showed us around and gave us some insight into local history. We also visited Tarrayoukyan Church and cemetery. Lunch and tea were taken at the Nareen Hall. We will publish more on Nareen History in the future.

## The Changes in Time

### Part 15

*By Des Murphy*

As I wonder about the future for farming communities I look back to Carapook 40 years ago. The school was busy with two teachers. There were two tennis courts and several teams. There was a badminton club and a busy hall committee serving the community. There was a large fire brigade which won two awards in the region 4 fire competition.

Today the school is closed and has been moved, the tennis and badminton clubs are no more, the fire brigade not as big and a dozen houses have been moved or demolished. Some of the houses that are left are not occupied. The districts of Wando Heights, Dorodong, Dergholm and Poolaijelo are in a similar position.

In the early 1930s, well after WWI, the government leased crown land for the grazing of sheep by adjoining land holders. Thousands of sheep were lightly grazed every year to help decrease the hazard from fire. If growth was exceptional, cool burning was carried out in Spring. After a burn it was noticeable how well the wild flowers grew.

In areas of better timber, forest rangers marked the trees for felling. This timber supplied three timber mills in the area. I was once told that 80 years ago, every house in Casterton was built from timber that was locally grown and locally milled.

After the war there were two saw mills in Casterton and one in Digby. One of the Casterton mills was supplied with wood from the Chetwynd area and the other by wood from the Dergholm area.

In the mid 1960s all grazing leases were cancelled and only the better timber areas were kept in production. Later, felling of trees was stopped and the areas were declared parklands and just grew wild. Landholders and farming organizations approached the government in order to have the area declared as a timber reserve but this approach failed. The three timber mills closed. Over the years the build up of undergrowth has been frightening and that along with a shortage of farm labour has lead to a threat of wild fire due to the lack of fire breaks. Twenty years ago, every fire brigade burnt miles of fire breaks to protect their brigade area.

Starting in 1932, the area has since developed a very big pine timber industry. There are 270,000 acres of pine trees are various stages of growth in Western

Victoria and the south-eastern corner of South Australia. The pine industry employs hundreds of people in its many mills in the area. Gone is the chain saw and the hand held tape measure. The big automatic machines do the lot, including the loading of the B-Double trucks. The trucking industry and several other smaller industries have prospered as a result of the pine industry.

In my 77 years of life (at the time of writing) I have seen it all. The start of the pine industry began with the planting of hundreds of acres of seedlings. After about twelve years the trees were tested for growth. After fifteen years, very second row was removed. The growth rate was tremendous. Some time later a third thinning was carried out before clear felling.

In 1938, a move to establish a pine mill and railway siding at Casterton lost out to a bid by Mount Gambier and so it became the hub of the pine industry.

Between 1937 and 1939, thousands of large Red Gums were felled in the Casterton and Coleraine area. The timber was cut up into railway sleepers and trucked away from the railway stations at Casterton and Coleraine to Melbourne. Thousands of tons of Red Gum fire wood was taken to the same destination. In those days, half the fence posts in the Western District were Red Gum. Now it is hardly available.

Fifty years ago, in the area to the north of Casterton, mills were cutting timber for housing. Now the area lies idle and is getting overgrown.

After a period of flooding in 1946 and 1958, the S.C.A carried out a complete survey of a thousand miles of the Glenelg River and various recommendations as to improvements were made. Work was carried out on 800 miles of the river in the southern and mid areas of the catchment area. The work in the north was not carried out.

In 1978, sand in the river was estimated to be 3 million metres. In 2002 it was estimated at 6 million meters even after large amounts of extraction.

Sand comes down-river from the Harrow, Chetwynd and Dergholm areas and builds up in the river in the Casterton area. One reason for this might be the replacing of native grasses by more vigorous varieties which have shallow roots. This allows for more erosion in the summer months so that when rain does fall, sand is washed down to the river.

This concludes Des's chapters on the changes that he has seen.

## Calendar of Events

**April 22nd** - Field Trip to Carapook, Bruk Bruk, Muntham and Sandford - Identification of former State School sites project.

**May** - Sunday 6th - Scanning Historic Photographs with Vern McCallum at the Sandford Hall 10.00 am to 3.00 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.

**July 16th** - AGM, RSL Rooms, Casterton, 2 pm Guest speaker TBC

**August 20th** - General Meeting 2 pm Merino Hotel. Guest speaker will be member of the Merino Progress association.

**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** - Saturday 10th - Casterton Pastoral and Agricultural Society. Vern McCallum Photographic Exhibition and "Best Photograph of an Historic Building in Casterton and District" entry in the indoor section of the P&A schedule.

**November 17th and 18th** - Back to Sandford weekend with scanning sessions and Photographic Exhibition Vern McCallum. **TBC**

**November 21st** - End of year dinner - Venue to be confirmed - 7 pm - Guest Speaker TBC

***Society Meeting Times and Dates,  
With Guest Speakers for 2007:***  
(guest speakers have not yet been finalised)

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Meetings held at the R.S.L. Rooms  
Henty Street, Casterton.\*  
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Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 16th May 2007 at 7.00 pm

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Monday 18th June 2007 at 2.00 pm  
Monday 16th July 2007 at 2.00 pm (AGM)  
Monday 20th August 2007 at 2.00 pm  
(\* at the Merino Hotel \*)  
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Wednesday 19th September at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 17th October at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 21st November at 7.00 pm

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December 2006 - No Meeting  
January 2007 - No Meeting

**Reminder**

Meetings in June, July and August are at 2.00 pm

**President:** Jan Lier  
**Publicity Officer:** Basil Stafford  
**Secretary:** Cheryl Elmes  
**Treasurer:** Patricia Pitkin

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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

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)

**Did You Know?.....**

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both  
front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the  
horse has one front leg in the air the person died as  
a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has  
all four legs on the ground, the person died of  
natural causes.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on  
bed-frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes  
the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to  
sleep on. Hence the phrase, "goodnight, sleep tight."

And last but not least, for our budding  
mathematicians:

$$\begin{array}{r} 111,111,111 \\ 111,111,111 \times \\ \hline = 12,345,678,987,654,321 \end{array}$$

**Thank You**

To all those who supported the Newsletter in  
March by finding a dollar donation. It is much  
appreciated. We sold out! Thank you.