

Historical Happenings

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2007

Casterton and District Historical Society Inc.

Nareen District Schools

On Sunday 25th March, members of the historical society had a day out in the Tarrayoukyan, Nareen and Koolomurt areas 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. As promised in the April edition this year, we are now publishing more on the Nareen School history.



25th March 2007 - Former Nareen School, Town Site

On 3rd April, 1869 a meeting was held at the home of Mr. Grant to further discuss the building of a school. J. Barclay had previously been appointed as secretary. By the 5th November, 1863 a school house was in course of construction and in January, 1870 a further meeting was held at Grant's Home. It was resolved to continue on with the school building. Tenders, returnable to Alex Grant or the Coleraine Albion office, were called for the carpenter's work and materials on 28th January, 1870. Mr. Grant had donated the land for the building. The stonemason who constructed it from bluestone from the hill just to the east of where it stands was John Benson. W. Boyle of Hamilton

carried out the carpentry. The total cost was £110.00. The school is thought to have opened fairly early in 1870. William McBean was the school teacher. He had previously been teaching at Bruk Bruk for three or four years.

At this time the teacher was paid by the parents of the children and he boarded at the homes of the scholars, principally at Mr. Donaldson's.

On 6th June, 1870, the Education Department took over the school. It became No. 1377, the Government renting the building and Mr. McBean continuing as teacher.

A school was opened at Tarrayoukyan (No. 1688) on 14th August 1875 and was at first worked part time with Nareen. It is said that the building first used at Tarrayoukyan was the newly erected Catholic Church. The schools were worked part time until 19th February 1876 then Tarrayoukyan was made full time and enrolled as No. 1688 with Mr. McBean as teacher. His position at Nareen was taken by Mr. E. Newlyn. Other teachers at Tarrayoukyan included Mr. Moroney, Miss L. Neave and Miss M. Carey.



Nareen School 1902

A school was also opened on a portion of allotment 36, Parish of Koolomurt, known as Koolomurt No. 1893, on 15th May, 1877, with William Corry as teacher. This was about a quarter of a mile west from

where Mr. James Carey's home stands today. A few years later this building was moved south some two miles, into the corner of allotment 59. It contained two rooms, one of which was used as the teacher's residence. Also to teach here was a Miss Heather.

With the opening of these schools and several others a Board of Advice came into being, with William Moodie being correspondent, on 24th April, 1875.

Some notes taken from the minutes of the Board are:

28th June, 1890: Alex Grant appointed correspondent following the resignation of W. Moodie.

20th April, 1892: Account for repairs to Tarrayoukyan, Nareen and Koolomurt passed for payment, £20.10.10 to A. Clark and John Waters Jnr.

26th May, 1892: Nareen Football Club applied to No. 2303 for a dance. (Apparently following the building of the Nareen government School which opened in March, 1885, the number was changed from 1377 to 2303, the school in the stone building being discontinued.)

13th September 1892: Joseph Riddoch re-nominated to the Board. A. Clark nominated to replace A. Grant who was leaving the district.

16th August 1894: Board opposed sale of Koolomurt school there being ten children of school age and under in the district and it may be advisable to open half time. More central position maybe found.

17th June, 1895: Re: Koolomurt 1893 asking Government to reconsider decision not to remove to proposed site to facilitate education of isolated families, two such having 14 children under school age, with no school within reach, their parents and others prepared to move the school and pay teacher to educate their children. The school was believed to have been offered for sale for £15.00.

14th May, 1896: Advising department that Nareen teacher teacher should be able to accommodate Nareen and petitioners children of Koolomurt but it was not advisable to shift Nareen Village school as there was permanent settlement there and it may be needed again, but Koolomurt unlikely to be needed on its site again.

18th December 1896: A. Clark, correspondent, urging removal of Koolomurt school to new site.

20th October 1897: Petition from residents of Nareen for Nareen and Koolomurt to be half time. Koolomurt was removed to site of present

school by 1898 and became Nareen 2303.

14th January, 1899: Nareen 2303 needed more tanks as there were over 30 children and little water within 2 miles.

10th May, 1899: Requesting the removal of the partition in the school.

2nd March, 1902: Donald McDonald appointed Chairman of the Board.

30th October, 1902: Shelter shed to have skillion- iron roof and weatherboard to cost about £7.10.

In 1911 the Boards of Advice were changed to School Committees which looked after their own individual school only. The names of men who served on the Board of Advice No, 302, Nareen Riding from 1875 to 1910 include: W. Moodie Wando Dale; McCorkindale, Glenetive; Mr. Wight, Spring Vale; A. Grant Nareen; J. Riddoch, Nareen; R. Quarterman, Nareen; A. Clark, Tarrayoukyan; M. McGrath, Nareen; D. McDonald, Nareen; M. Healy, Nareen; J. Barclay, Tarrayoukyan; J. Waters, Nareen; A. McIntyre, Nareen.

The school in Nareen Village was removed to Balochile in 1912. The Tarrayoukyan school was closed on 17th December, 1914 and later removed. The old school building at Nareen, formerly the Koolomurt school, was sold and replaced with a newer building brought from Wando Bridge in 1949; this again was removed in 1960 after a modern new building was erected. This building was officially opened by Mrs. Kathleen Neeson on 17th July, 1960. She had been secretary of the school committee for many years. A further room was added to this and the Nareen School of today would be one of the most up to date and best equipped in the area.



*Tarrayoukyan:
Adam Clarke's House, School, Church
Prior to 1912*



Nareen State School 1919

Some of the teachers who have taught at Nareen over the years include: William McBean, 1870; Edward Newlyn, 1875; Miss Little, 1882; Miss Valentine, 1886; Mr. Bear, 1890-1908 and later Miss Bourke, E. Anderson, R. Donehue, E. Rooney, E. Bieske, H. Lewis, A. Foster, L. McNaughton, C. Farrell, F. Lynch, A. Ross, G. Ryan, S. Wyness, M. Cowan, L. Kennedy, J. Dalrymple, S. Egan, J. Moloney, M. Elliott, L. Folvig, A. McEvoy, J. Ayers, McDonnell, R. Wedd, W. James, H. Osmond, J. Bell, D. Munari, Van Pruen, I. Murrell, D. Pearce, E. McKenzie, L. Coldwell.

Present head teacher is Mr. B. Leslie, with Mrs. J. McDonald assistant and Mrs. B. Browning acts as a relieving teacher when necessary.

Nareen School Committee 1970:

A. Carey, President; A. Neeson, Secretary; N. McDonald, E. Neeson, R. Paltridge, F. Harris, L. Browning, S. Browning and H. Munro.

Mothers Club 1970:

Mrs. S. Browning, President; Mrs. R. Paltridge, Secretary; Mrs. A. Carey, Treasurer.

Wando Heights School

With the necessity of another school to the south, L.T. Koch offered a site on Wando Dale. It was realized that the Education Department would not build for some time, so a modern building was erected and paid for by L. T. Koch, C. N. Austin, C. R. Spiers and D.H. Reid. This was leased to the Department and became Wando Heights No. 4668. It was officially opened by W.J.F. McDonald M.L.A. on 31st May 1951, and has been in use from the 6th of Feb. 1951. Miss J. Clode was first teacher and the present teacher is Mr. L. Coldwell.



Nareen School 1960

Above article reproduced from,
 "History of Nareen and Tarrayoukyan"
 By Ewan Neeson

Annual General Meeting

A further reminder that Casterton and District Historical Society Inc. will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 16th July at 2.00 pm at the R.S.L. meeting hall, Henty Street, Casterton.

Our guest speaker will be Warrick Hansted who is an archivist with 20 years experience, currently employed at R.M.I.T., Hamilton. Initially he worked at the Public Records Office, National Archives of Australia.

Warrick's first job at the Public Records Office was sorting the Ned Kelly documents. Warrick is going to talk on, "Archiving your family history documents and photographs."

School Reports

On 29th April, 2007, a small group set off to Carapook to visit former state school sites. We were led by Ross Astbury for the Carapook sites and John Cleary for the Muntham and Sandford sites. A great day was had, with a couple coming from Melbourne to join in the day. They are now members and we welcome them on board.

Janet Shady and Jill Curren, were most gracious in opening up the Muntham hall for us and giving us loads of information on the Muntham sites. We thank them very much for their time and for going out of their way to make us welcome. A big thank you to both Ross and John for their time and for imparting their knowledge.

Memories of Carapook by Ross Astbury

I attended Carapook School for two years in 1950 and 1951. At that time the school went up to grade eight. Two years later a school bus service began to Casterton High School and Carapook took students up to grade six. Many names from the past still appear in the district; paddocks and roads still bear the names:- McBean, Murray, Milburn, Ferrier, Luers, Burchell, Cotter and Templeton.

When I first became a student in 1950, the "Bella Vista" Soldier Settlement was just settled. Names included, Eagleson, Bell, Tindall and Kindred. Other families associated with the school at this time were, Simkin, Davis, Rooke, Munro, McCallum, Grinham and Goodwin.

Carapook had some excellent athletes winning many district championships in inter-school sports. The boys played football (12 a side) against our neighbouring school, Muntham, at which the whole district turned out to support their respective team.

During this period, Carapook boasted many good tennis, cricket and badminton sides and even held its own carnival. There was an active hall committee which held dances and concerts. An active church still serves the community today.

Fires.

During the nineteen fifties and sixties, Carapook School had a series of small fires. They were caused mainly by burning off or by teachers from the city lighting incinerators in the summer. Most notably, in 1951 the girls toilet block burnt down to the extent that a new block had to be built.

Many stories remain to be told. I hope that the trophies and rolls are intact somewhere and that the history of the school that served the district lives on.



Carapook 1940 Schools' Sports Champions.

It is clear that since 1865 approximately there have been three sites for the district school.

- ◆ No. 915, Bruk Bruk, situated on the property 'Burnback' currently owned by the Davis family. The actual site of the school is not known ("Vision & Realisation", Vol 2, Education Department of Victoria states that it was two miles north of Carapook village). It appears to have been a private school charging a fee of a shilling a week, a large sum in those days.
- ◆ The second school, described as a temporary school, No. 1624, was north of the current Carapook township on a property owned by Jean and Stan Rooke. I have visited this site many times. It is up Doughney Lane; now inaccessible because the bridge over the creek was pulled down and not replaced. The school appears to have operated for two years.
- ◆ School number 1969 was formed by a combination of 915 and 1624 in the Carapook village site where the remains of the school base and the toilets are still visible. This site had two school buildings. The original weatherboard school and attached residence was sold to Mr. Les Anson and was used as a shed until sold to Ian Murphy. This school was removed many years later, going to Glenorchy as a district hall. It was replaced in 1960 with a portable classroom complete with power, water and telephone. At the closing of this school the classroom was shifted to Casterton High School. Much of the remains, tanks, stands and concrete pavers, were used at the new Casterton Primary School. The school closed due to lack of numbers. This was a shame as it was about to enter its 100th year on the site.



One identifiable feature of State School 1969 is the front gate shown in this 2002 photograph.

Muntham School

Clover Flat, South of Carapook, between Casterton & Coleraine

Muntham School, number 2112, was situated approximately 11 miles N of Merino on the Lower Sandford Road, north of the Wannan River. The original school built on Quinberry Hill served the families of the selectors on the rich land between the historic Henty Estates of "Merino Downs" and "Muntham". In about 1903, just after "Muntham" Estates were divided and sold privately, the building was moved some 2½ miles nearer the river to a site which had formed part of a stud Jersey farm called Clover Flat. Muntham School closed in 1953. Eleven of its pupils had begun attending Merino Consolidated School, and others north of the river were provided with a bus service to Coleraine. The building was moved to Morgiana, where it gave several more years service as a school. Then in 1964 Morgiana obtained a new school and the old building was purchased by local citizens and moved to serve as a social centre. The Muntham site was purchased by the local people and there is now a recreation hall and grounds where so many farm children spent their school days.

Source: "Vision & Realisation", Vol 2, Education Department of Victoria

Sandford School

Sandford School, No. 1654, was opened on 1st of November, 1875, under head teacher Richard Wilson (1875-8). However, an earlier school had been opened on 25th of January, 1861 by the Church of England. Reverend F.C. Russell reported the opening of this school with an attendance of 30, the teacher being John Holt. This school became Common School No 576. In April 1864 Di Venables examined School 576, the head teacher being Caleb Radford (1862-7) son of Dr. Radford who had commenced practice in Casterton. In September 1865, Isabella McLennon was appointed work mistress and in January 1868, Thomas Owen Evans was head teacher and Janet Lane was work mistress. The school was then situated on a hill south of the present township, known locally as Stories Hill, or Factory Hill.

On 20th of November 1873, Di Brodribb recommended that a brick school be built on a triangular site of 2 acres, Lot 25, Township of Sandford, County of Normanby on the Casterton-Portland Rd.

James Nation and Co., Melbourne, submitted a successful tender and erected, for £817, a brick building with an attached residence of three rooms (rent being £15 p.a.). The school opened as State School 1654, replacing School 576. The attendance in 1875 was 56. Kohn and Campbell of Merino added a room to the residence and fenced the site in 1879. Kaladbro State School was moved and used as an infant room in 1898. Two detached wooden rooms were added to the residence in 1908, and in 1909, another weatherboard classroom permitted 67 children to be accommodated. After the fire of 1963, school continued for a time in the one remaining room until a new classroom was erected. In 1965 a second classroom was added and the old single room purchased and removed locally.

Source: "Vision & Realisation", Vol 2, Education Department of Victoria.



John Cleary, Roly Cooper, Donal and Alma Charles at Sandford, part of the former state schools project.

Vern McCallum Historic Photographs Exhibition at Digby

August 25th and 26th

Vern's photo collection was first shown in Digby at the "Back To" in 1977. Over the years the collection has grown to some 9000 photos which are displayed annually in the Digby Hall on the last weekend of August each year. The photos that are not on display are shown by way of books of photos approx three inches by four inches and are also on computer so that people can see any photo in the collection. This is also a scanning session so: ***Please bring your old photo's along on the day.***

Power's Creek

On Sunday 27th May, 2007 a group of 16 members attended the field trip to identify the former State School site of Power's Creek. The day commenced at Chetwynd, with a visit to the Petrovics for lunch. And what a lunch it was! As usual, the meal was cooked to perfection and the hosts as gracious as ever.

After lunch the group traveled to Power,s Creek and met with John Warner, who gave us an overview of the history of the school and provided us with a viewing of his museum.

Back to Chetwynd for afternoon tea and of course, we were unable to visit Brimboal, so will have to have another meal next year at the Petrovics so we can visit Brimboal. This wasn't planned (not much!)

The next outing will be on 23rd September, 2007 to Henty, Wurt Wurt Koort, Merino Downs, Glenorchy and Merino. We look forward to another great day out. - Jan Lier

Powers Creek - No. 2217 (Chetwynd)

In 1880 the Department supplied a portable wooden schoolhouse to accommodate 30 pupils, with a two-room wooden residence attached. The school opened on the 1st of April, 1880 under head teacher Charles Phillips with an attendance of 21 pupils (8 boys, 13 girls) during the first year of operation. Mr. Phillips remained in charge of the school until the 18th of May, 1883. From a date in 1907 the school worked half-time with 1871 Tallangower, and finally closed on 22nd of October 1911. Source: "Vision & Realisation", Vol 2, Education Department of Victoria.

Tallangower

No. 1871 Tallangower School commenced in the 1870s with an enrolment of 60 and with Schultze as an early head teacher. The school was situated 5 miles W of Chetwynd on the Tallangower road. The building was of the slab type, approximately 30ft x 24ft with a partition down the centre separating the classroom from the two small rooms which served as teacher's quarters. Between 1899 and 1901, and from 1903 to 1906, the school operated on a part-time basis with Chetwynd East. The school closed for a short period, re-opening again in 1907, when it functioned part-time with a school at Power's Creek. Enrolment fell and the school closed again. In 1920, when it re-opened, it did so on an adjoining site - the previous building having been sold. The school remained operational until it finally closed in 1945.

Source: "Vision & Realisation", Vol 2, Education Department of Victoria

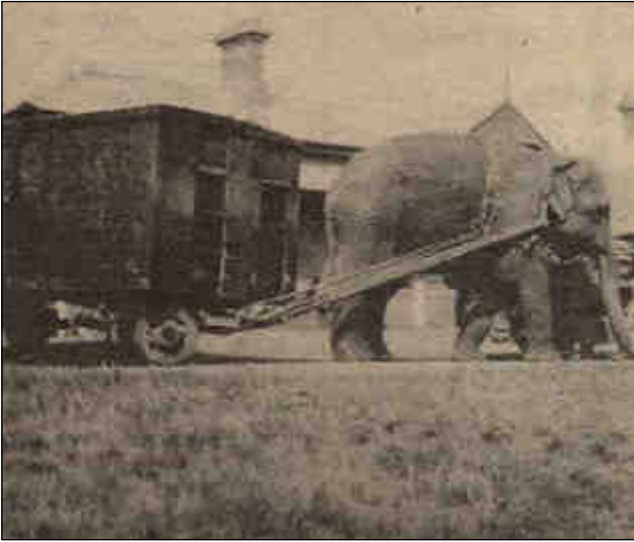
Chetwynd East

No. 2975, the school opened in a leased building situated about 5 miles from Chetwynd Junction on the Harrow Road on 25th of November, 1889. The building was described as a bush hut, constructed of tough timber. Jessie McNaughton was the first head teacher. 12 children attended, representing only three or four families. During 1899 - 1901 and 1903 -1906 the school operated half-time with Tallangower. The school closed in 1906. Source: "Vision & Realisation", Vol 2, Education Department of Victoria.



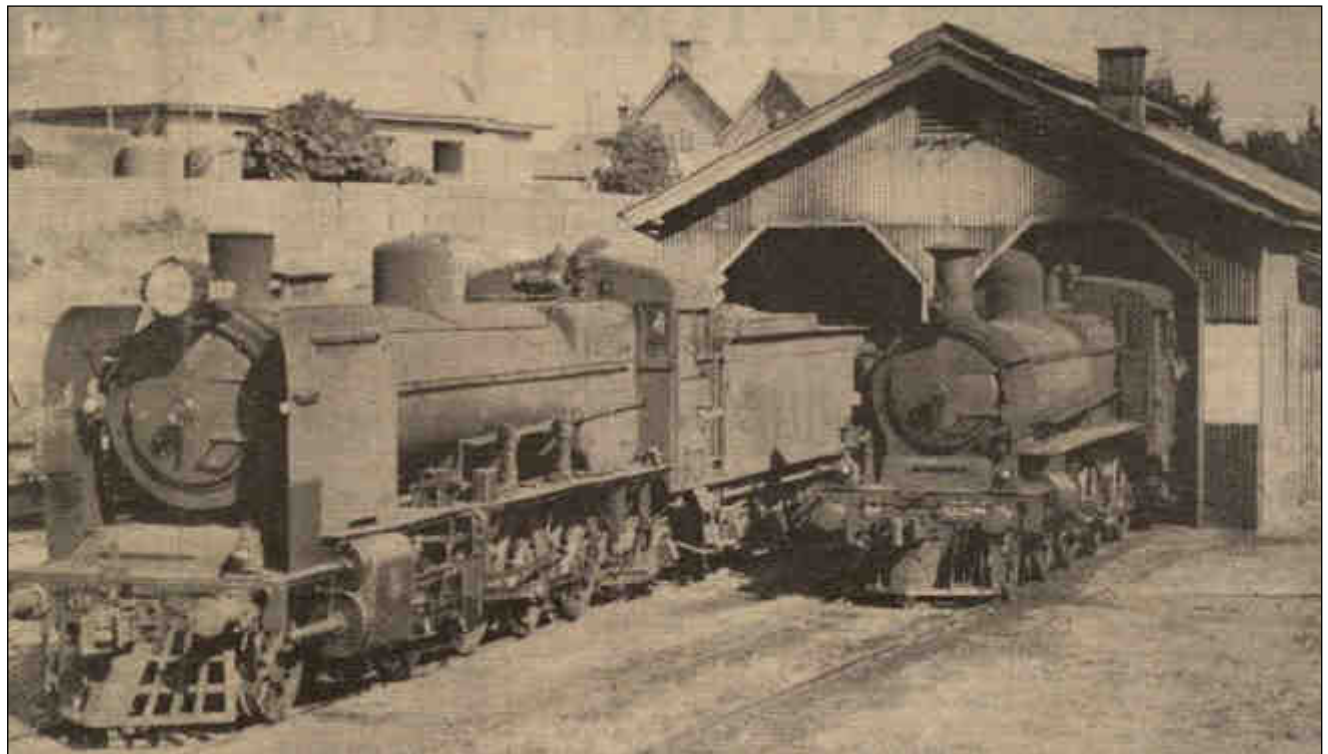
Left to right: Roly Cooper, John Warner, Georgia & Bec McClellan, Bob & Kath Astbury, Ann Bull, Debra Vaughan, Basil Stafford, Lyn Tait, Marie Ross, Anthony, Joan Waters, Joan Bilston, Dawn Anson, Ron Waters.

And now..... for something Completely Different



Not Monty Python's Flying Circus perhaps but "An elephant tows a trailer away from Casterton Railway Station after the circus arrived by train many years ago." Believed to have been in 1946.

Below: "Shades of the past! These railway locomotives were pictured at Casterton in the days of steam. Although regular train services from Casterton have been suspended, the line will remain open until the end of May for superphosphate traffic. This week, Victorian Railways agreed to run a train from Casterton with hay for the bushfire area. The hay appeal organised by the Western Advertiser is open. Hay should be left at the Glenelg River bridge end of the Casterton railway station's goods platform. All donations, no matter how small, will be acknowledged through these columns." Pictures provided to the Western Advertiser by Mrs. Nell Rankin.



Calendar of Events

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

August 20th - General Meeting 2 pm Merino Hotel
- Guest speaker from 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 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)

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

Monday 16th July 2007 at 2.00 pm (AGM)

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

Guest Speaker from the Merino Progress Assoc

Wednesday 19th September at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 17th October at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 21st November at 7.00 pm

December 2007 - No Meeting
January 2008 - No Meeting

Wednesday 20th February 2008 at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 19th March 2008 at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 16th April 2008 at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 21st May 2008 at 7.00 pm

Monday 16th June 2008 at 2.00 pm

Reminder

Meetings in June, July and August are at 2.00 pm
on Monday.

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

Contacts:
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P.O. Box 48, Casterton, Victoria, 3311.

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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)



This picture seemed to be in keeping with the
current spell of weather! Taken at the Solider
Settlement at Tulse Hill about 1950.