Casterton and District Historical Society Inc Newsletter

October 2008

Historical Happenings

Special items in our newsletter:

Results of AGM & What's Old and What's New

Report page 1 & 2

Changes at the Railway Station

Report page 3



Womens Suffragette Banner available for women to sign before it heads back to Melbourne in November. Casterton's banner is number 201 and will be sewn together with 203 other banners to form one large banner similar to that of the 1891 petition for the Womens Right to Vote in Victoria. Women achieved the vote in 1908. The banner will be at the **Casterton Memorial** Hospital, then the Town Hall and then at the Chetwynd Hall.





Casterton Community Museum

Results of Annual General Meeting

Dear members,

Well, here it is, the revival of our newsletter. It may not be as large as the previous ones, but nonetheless a newsletter!

I guess first thing is first, results of the AGM held back in August. The new office bearers are:
President/Archivist – Jan Lier
Secretary – Ros Coventry
Treasurer – David Coventry
Snr Vice President – Basil Stafford
Jnr Vice President – Roly Cooper
Public Officer – Murray Davis

What's old and what's new

Past:

ANZAC DAY EXHIBITION:

An exhibition for Anzac Day saw the Casterton Primary School children participate in a photographic exhibition related to Major Norman McDonald.

This went very well and we thank the children of Casterton Primary School, Casterton RSL and The Victorian Veterans fund for providing the funds to have this exhibition on Anzac Day.

WOMENS SUFFRAGE

We were very fortunate to receive funding from the Womens Policy Unit to have a booklet produced - The Pioneer Suffragettes of Casterton and District and a photographic exhibition which was held at the Digby Revisited weekend held on the last weekend in August. The weekend whilst it was a very wet one, was very successful and our Suffragette Banner is quickly filling up with signatures.

The book is available for sale from the Historical Society = contact Jan Lier and also available at the Visitors Information Centre in Casterton. Cost is \$10.00.

FAMILY HISTORY EXPO

Also at the Digby Revisited weekend, we held a family history expo with many family history group attending from around the region and the south east of South Australia. Funded by the South West Community Foundation and the Glenelg Shire Council, this was a great success with many visitors taking advantage of the family history groups information which was made available



Next Meeting of the Casterton Historical Society will be on Wednesday October 15th, 7pm at the RSL rooms. All welcome.

Casterton New Cemetery Mapping Project

Held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday from 10 – 12 noon.
Currently we are half way thru the Presbyterian Section with headstone inscriptions and mapping the grave



Part of the Photographic Exhibition of the Suffragettes of Casterton and District. On the weekend. Also in attendance was Gould Genealogy/Archive CD's who came over from Adelaide on the Saturday to be in attendance.

Whilst the rain made things difficult and somewhat soggy under foot, they had a great day and we thank them very much for supporting our history expo in person.

DIGBY REVISITED

Again Vern McCallum had his photographs out on display and his collection just gets larger and larger. Without people like Vern our pictorial history would be lost, but his passion and enthusiasm for preserving our past is fantastic, and he is a legend.

We will continue in the future to support Vern at these weekends.

CASTERTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 100th Anniversary

Casterton Hospital will celebrate its 100th anniversary in October with a number of events from the 6th October to the 12th October. The society will participate via the Womens Suffrage Banner which will be available for signing by the women of Casterton during this week. We have also helped the hospital with research for the occasion.

A history of the hospital book has been produced and will be available

for sale from the hospital during the celebrations.

CHETWYND HALL 100th anniversary.

Chetwynd Hall also celebrates its anniversary on the 25th October.

Contact Sally Stevenson, Chetwynd for further details.

IDENTIFICATION OF FORMER STATE SCHOOL SITES = 19th October

This is the last one and ends just over 2 years of visits to different sites around the district. This last one covers, Strathdownie, Wilkin and Killara areas.

Meet at 10am Railway station on the 19th October, BYO Lunch and afternoon tea.

Visits also to Strathdownie Hall and Cemetery.

VERN MCCALLUM PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT THE ARTS CENTRE PORTLAND commencing 9th November.

Vern will have an exciting exhibition of his works for a month at the Portland Arts Centre. Open weekdays, this exhibition promises to showcase 40 of his best historic photographs of Portland and the district watering holes of the district.

A MUST SEE EXHIBITION. Further details contact Glenelg Shire Council Arts Centre.

CHANGES ON THE HORIZON FOR OUR PAPER/RESEARCH COLLECTION – SHIFTING TO THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Railway Station has been for the past 35 years home to the entire museum collection. The building requires restoration and we await funding from VicTrack but at this stage, we may be waiting a long time.

The Station has rising damp and our paper based collection is at risk with

humidity in the summer rising to around 95%.

With the risk being high to this part of the collection the Society at the September meeting agreed in principle to move to the Visitor Information Centre.



Page 3 of 3

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Gayle Tierney, Upper House Member for Western District did the honor of launching the booklet "The Pioneer Suffragettes of Casterton & District" And a great job she did. Thanks Gayle.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: www.ballaratgenealogy.org/casterton/historicalsociety

Discussions had previously taken place to see if the VIC would 1. Take us, 2. Want us and 3. If it was suitable for the collection. The response was overwhelming from the Art and Craft Association and the current manager of the centre Catriona Hill to welcome us with open arms.

Further discussions will take place with the Glenelg Shire Council to see the smooth transition of our research materials to the VIC where they will be available 7 days a week for family history researchers. This is a great outcome for the Historical Society.

We will continue to have our museum at the Railway Station, with our artifacts and items that are not as affected by the humidity such as wood, metals etc.

Also we will not have additional storage space made available.

The other great outcome is that the VIC will be able to utilize the museum collection for displays and exhibitions at the VIC. Currently we have an exhibition of memorabilia of clothing and items around the 1890's which were used as part of the Womens Suffrage Exhibition.



The original petition of 1891 which is housed at the Public Records Office in North Melbourne



If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, or better still if you would like to be the editor of this newsletter, please contact Jan Lier for further information: Ph. 0432 774314 or janlier@bigpond.net.au

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