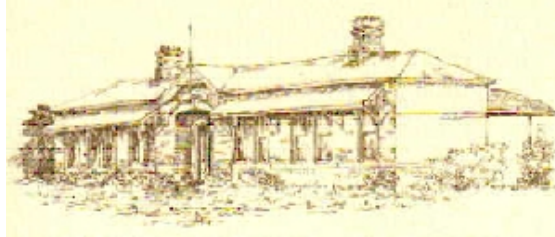


Casterton and District  
Historical Society Inc  
Newsletter

March 2009

# Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum

*What's old and what's new*

Special items in our  
newsletter:

Mitchell map collection:  
handover at the Visitors  
Information Centre at  
February meeting

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Jim Kent  
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## Parish maps a valuable resource for Casterton Historical Society

The Casterton Historical Society held its first meeting for 2009 at the Visitor Information Centre as an informal barbeque, and took the opportunity to announce the acquisition of a resource of great value to the community. Local councillors Bruce Cross and Karen Stephens attended the meeting, also held to announce the acquisition of a large number of old district maps from the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The maps had been in the Mitchell family for over one hundred years at their Sandford property. Last year Geoff and Kay Mitchell made the generous offer to the Historical Society to hand over the maps. They will be available at the Visitor Information Centre in the near future.

The Historical Society will also provide access to microfiche and microfilm records of the all copies of the early Casterton News from the 1860s up to 2007, Glenelg Shire rate book records and school records of Casterton and the district. The necessary equipment will be installed soon to make these valuable records available to all who wish to search for information. It will be accessible seven days a week.

Comprehensive records of births, deaths and marriages from all states and cemetery records of the district will also be available. The Casterton Community Museum will remain at the railway station holding the items/artifacts.

Jean McCallum from the Visitor Information Centre and Art and Craft Society has embraced the innovations eagerly and looks forward to working with the Historical Society members, who will be able to help residents research family history. It will no longer be necessary to travel to Melbourne to search records as most will be available in Casterton at the Visitor Information Centre's Family History Centre.

The Historical Society also requests anyone in the community who has old town and family records and information about Casterton and district to allow the Historical Society to make copies of same, to the benefit of the wider community who may then share access to all the available historical information.

Secretary, Ros Coventry



*Jean McCallum, Geoff Mitchell, Kay Mitchell, Bruce Cross and Basil Stafford at the handing over of the maps at the BBQ meeting in February.*



Next Meeting of the Casterton Historical Society will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at the Visitor Information Centre. All welcome.**

**Casterton New Cemetery Mapping Project**

Held on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 10 – 12 noon.

Currently we are part way through the Roman Catholic Section with headstone inscriptions and mapping of the grave sites.



*Jim Kent and Roly Cooper deep in discussion at the February BBQ meeting*

*President's Report*

Hello members

Well 2009 is looking to be a promising year for the Society with a move of our research and paper based items to the VIC. Gradually over the next couple of months we will set ourselves up to be able to offer research facilities 7 days per week.

What a milestone for the Society, Casterton and the broader community. Our next meeting will be our first in the VIC and we look forward to Jean McCallum coming to talk to us about some procedures for the VIC and our role.

Ros will be contacting all our Casterton based members to discuss volunteering down at the centre, so if you can think about how much time you can volunteer and when this will make life a little easier for Ros. We need to work towards covering the historical section 7 days per week. To all the members, thank you for your support in this new era of the society.

On to our end of month Field Trip

All systems are go with our friends Sloba and Ilija up in Chetwynd and a meal is all confirmed for the 29<sup>th</sup> March. Cost \$20.00. Could you please confirm your attendance to Ros prior to our meeting or at our meeting.

Significance Assessment

We await the funding to come from Heritage Victoria and this will be discussed at our next meeting.

Kelpie Information Centre

The next stage of the process is about to unfold with approval to select some consultations to do the business plan. More in the next issue of who they are and what they will do.

That's about it for now.

Jan  
President/Archivist





Visitor Information Centre



Casterton Community Museum

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## **“Casting” Comments**

### **The history of the Casterton Iron and Brass Foundry**

by local historian Jim Kent

It is not generally known that at one time Casterton had a foundry operating under the title of Casterton Iron and Brass Foundry.

One small action on my part brought to light not only who owned and operated it but also its place of being. It came about thus...

For many years I had owned a large road-making plough which my grandfather Mick Kent owned and used in his work as a road making contractor in this Shire. I decided to give this old plough to my eldest son, also Mick Kent, and in doing so noticed for the first time that it had a maker's name stamped on it which declared "Grant & Molloy, Makers, Casterton". I know that James Scott Grant was brother-in-law to my grandfather Mick Kent and they both married O'Brien sisters. But the Molloy name was unknown to me.

James Scott Grant was the son of the John Scott Grant and Ann Kilpatrick who emigrated to Australia in 1841. John Scott Grant worked on various stations before buying the Woodford Hotel at what is now Dartmoor.

He was later to operate hotels in both Henty and Sandford settlements. Some of his sons were also to enter the hotel trade, Richard at Penola, Robert and George at Casterton where they built the Albion Hotel.

James Scott Grant was to become a blacksmith and it is believed his first blacksmith shop was in Tyers Street next to McKinlay's Glenelg Inn.

The O'Brien sisters had a room in the McKinlays' Glenelg Inn where they conducted a dressmaking business.

I have not been able to find out much about the Molloy side except that he was a partner with James S Grant in the Foundry which is believed to have been on the site of the present day Senior Citizens Rooms.

Molloy departed this partnership in the 1880s and James S Grant then moved over the river in 1891 to new premises which after his death in 1898 became George McBean's and then Hogben and Atchison.

James S Grant died at the age of 43 years. He has one son, Reg Grant, my father's cousin; they would have passed for twins. Somewhere in the back of my head I have a notion that Molloy and Grant bought the Casterton Iron and Brass Foundry from a Mr William Williams previously from Mt Gambier.

When Molloy left James S Grant sold it to Alexander McBean who had his blacksmith shop at what is now number 1 Henty Street, Casterton Farm Supplies.

In Hamilton, at an Exhibition, the same James S Grant won first prize for a plough he made, doing all the forging and castings himself.

Now one of these Grant and Molloy ploughs occupies a place of honour in my son's beautiful garden at his residence at 60 Old Mt Gambier Road, Casterton.