

Casterton New Cemetery Mapping Project

We have now completed all sections - Jan needs to finish up doing the bits and pieces on the computer, then we will walk again to re-check.

Australian Railway Historical Society

Notice of a new publication:
Bygone Australian Transport
 (c 1950-1985) by Bob Wilson
 - for other publications see
www.arhsvic.org.au
 telephone 1300 220 220



To contribute to this newsletter,
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Society outings for 2011:

Plans for 2011 include visiting Millicent, Mt Gambier and possibly Ararat to visit the Gum Sang Chinese museum. We met the director of the museum on our December lunch outing to Chetwynd and heard from her some of the amazing history of the Chinese prospective goldseekers who walked through SA and Victoria after disembarkation at Robe.

History of Street Names

Throughout cities, towns, villages etc, thoroughfares bisecting these populated places had conferred on them distinctive names whereby it became easy to identify the people and places of commerce situated on these named roadways. Behind the names given to these avenues for movement, there is, in many cases, an item of some importance, relevant to the given name.

We will start with the nomenclature of the streets and other ways of our own town of Casterton. One at a time will be sufficient, otherwise we will 'cut-out' fairly rapidly as our town is relatively small, so we will start with our main street.

Nearly bisecting our town is the main thorough fare named Henty Street. There will be no prizes for answering the origins of this name. It came about thus, and is very aptly named, as our town is situated in a river valley, and surrounded by hills.

Back as far as the 14th Century, there was in Sussex, England, a family of farmers named HANTYE. The name was derived from the Anglo-Saxon HEANTEAGE meaning "at the high enclosure" and, as was current in those days, the farm bore the same name as the occupiers or owners.

Early in the 18th Century, the name had been reworked down to HENTY, the family still living and farming together with commercial interest in this district. One descendant, Thomas Henty, and his wife Elizabeth, had eleven children, eight daughters and three sons.

Thomas Henty despatched some of his sons to the newly discovered "great South Land". Firstly they settled in Tasmania, then Western Australia and finally, Portland, on the coast of Victoria, where they set up as farmers and fishermen with some commercial interests.

Following the meeting up by the explorer Major Mitchell, the Henty brothers of Portland moved inland to the district of present day Casterton. Here they acquired vast areas of grazing land, each brother occupying separate properties called MUNTAM, SANDFORD HOUSE, and MERINO DOWNS. It is after these people that the main street of the township of Casterton is named HENTY STREET.

by Jim Kent.

Casterton Community Museum



We're on the Web - visit us at:

[www.ballaratgenealogy.org/
casterton/historicalsociety](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org/casterton/historicalsociety)

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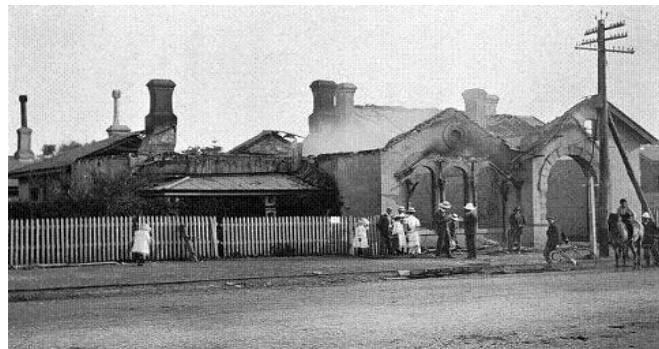
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History of the Postal Services in Casterton and Strathdownie

The introduction of postal services became the main means of communication in the early days with mails arriving by steamer at Portland.

Alexander MCKINLAY founded Casterton about 1846 to 1848 and built the Glenelg Inn. He is said to be the first postmaster.

Mr. John COULSON erected the new post office in 1875. The first appointed postmaster was Mr. L. F. MARCHANT. Casterton's second postmaster was Mr. J. J. BARRY who joined the PMG in 1860 and came to Casterton in 1876. He was at Casterton until 1890 when he went to Melbourne on promotion. He was a life long friend of Mr. ROWAN, father of Frank Hamilton ROWAN, a firm of solicitors in Casterton, whose daughter is Brenda MITCHELL of "MOREDUN HILL". Mr. BARRY was very active in town affairs being chairman of the Casterton Racing Club, Vice President of the Horticulture Society, registrar of Births and Deaths and involved with the Mechanics Institute and Athletic Sports meetings. He married Miss FITZGERALD from Harrow. When living in Melbourne he called his house in Spring Road, Malvern, "Kowree".



The most famous fire in Casterton history is the burning of the Post Office. This occurred on the morning of 24th January 1908 and little could be done to save the building. The present Post Office was subsequently erected as a result of this fire. The cause of this fire has never been established.

Strathdownie

This was opened on 1st October 1877 with William HOLDEN being the first Postmaster. Before 1860 the residents of STRATHDOWNIE were compelled to send to Casterton for their mail. During the first year 10,000 letters were handled whilst in the mid 1880's the number of letters had risen to 45,000 owing to the rise in the population in the area.

William HOLDEN carried on running the Post Office, until his death in 1906 and from 1908 until 1959 it was conducted by Miss Lexie MCEACHERN. In latter years, Postmistresses were Mrs. PEARCE and MRS JOYCE they completing the 100 years of service given to the residents of STRATHDOWNIE and surrounding district.

Taken from, "Extracts from the Casterton and District Historical Society Inc. Minutes from 1966-1996" booklet. Note: these are taken from talks given by guest speakers to the Historical Society.