

Historical Happenings



Next General Meeting
Wednesday, 16th April 2.30pm
at RSL hall, Casterton

Afternoon tea: please bring a small plate to share.

1.30PM: SPECIAL MEETING
Members will meet before the General Meeting to discuss our Kelpie Parade float, the theme of which is **McKinlay's Glenelg Inn / Adelaide Crossing**, part of our celebrations to commemorate the **50th Anniversary of CDHS**.

To be involved in the parade, please be there. Help make it the *Best Float* for 2014. All input and creative ideas welcome. There are many characters - squatters, swaggies, surveyors, workers, inn patrons and children. Costumes can be provided or you can make or use your own.

2.30PM - we will have our usual business meeting and welcome **visitors from Coleraine Historical Society**. Graeme Wallis will talk about their society.

Henty Street /Tyers Street corner
McKinlay's Glenelg Inn in 1873



Casterton Community Museum

Accidents Waiting to Happen

by Jim Kent

Some time back I wrote an article briefly outlining the dangerous sections of the streets that form the grid of roads of the township of Casterton. I drew a comparison to a book written by an American author about the covered bridges of Madison County. That had a romantic scenario. Could a book written about the streets of Casterton to conjure up romantic scenes? I rather think it could predict some tragic outcomes. Alas, I don't think our society's monthly journal was noticed by the reading section of people who have responsibility for what is referred to as "duty of care".

A previous state premier decided to amalgamate the numerous local shires that had once formed successful local government. No doubt our good and attentive local councillors have, since amalgamation, an enormous workload on their shoulders, and in my opinion are doing an admirable job. There is an army of paper shufflers seated on chairs in the palatial offices of Portland headquarters of the local shire carrying out duties allied to the smooth running of a myriad of various factions that are now part of local government.

I am aware that I should not criticize without offering some alternatives, so this is what I shall do. Be first advised that my writings and opinions are mine and mine alone, not the opinion the local Historical Society of which I am a founding member. Space does not permit to comment on the numerous dangerous states of our streets so I will pick up on what I consider a small number of those requiring attention.

McPherson-Henty Street intersection: the chaos that reigns supreme here at the time of commencement and discharge of the nearby school has to be seen to be believed. School buses and parents' vehicles delivering children to and from school all mix it up in a merry-go-round, traffic going east-west and vice versa in Henty Street. Students on foot, bicycle, scooters, skates and skateboards, all lead to a frightening situation at this intersection.

As an alternative which was there many years ago and could be revived; Tuckett Street runs into McPherson but is dead-ended by the Vic Rail station and precinct. Years ago it ran across the front of the railway station joining up with Jackson and Wathem streets. Opening this road up once more would offer an additional outlet to school-related traffic.

While in this area we might look at the now ridiculous situation where Jackson Street is cut in half by the now extinct railway system. For as long as I can remember there had been agitation for the street to be opened up across the railway land, to no avail in the foreseeable future. This piece of land will never again be occupied by railway lines so why not do away with the ridiculous by-passing that happens now. At the western end of Casterton is the gravel section of Peachey Street. Proceed with utmost caution because where Peachey street passes the termination of Carmichael Street a huge bush completely blocks your view of any oncoming traffic.



Casterton Historical Society 50th Anniversary, 2014

In 2014 CDHS will celebrate fifty years. Any members who have ideas and suggestions to mark this occasion of the fiftieth anniversary are encouraged to share them. April and May meetings will be concerned with the progress of the celebration activities and detail of organization of the float for the Kelpie Parade. Helpers may be required before the actual day and we may have a rehearsal of our outstanding creation. We also need to confirm the number of participants.

Sacred Heart Pupils c 1911



The Logs gaol



Proceed cautiously to the end of the paved section of Peachey because at this eastern end a drop of some hundreds of feet vertically will land you on the flood plain of the Glenelg River. There are no warning signs, no guard rails or any other type of warning that the trafficable section of Peachey Street ends here, at a precipice. To come out of Peachey Street, going west, proceed very slowly at the Russell Street intersection as your vision is obscured by a large bush on the right side.

Improvements could be implemented by the removal of these large bushes and very importantly some safety rails advising the end of the road at the eastern end of the street.

For a humdinger of a danger spot, have a look at the crossroads of Racecourse Road and Anderson Road. Here on all sides you have obstructions. Telstra have for some years now had gates around their line pits on two of the corners which has encourage a grass identified at Phalaris to grow over the fence height around these gated pits. On the opposite corners, cattle yards, horse yards, sheds and trees all block your vision of traffic which may also be on the road.

The simple solution here is to advise Telstra to attend to the landlines and remove the grass hazard and inform the adjoining landholders that their infrastructures are a traffic hazard which require attention.

Exercise great caution should you exit Island Park via Spurrell Drive as your entry into McPherson Street is obscured by various things which require removal.

Adjacent to McKinlay Street and Bahgallah Road is a fern-infested vacant block with what is referred to as Minnie's Waterhole on it. I understand that a public body has an interest in this place but what I cannot understand is that a hedgerow of trees has been planted at right angles in the corner of the intersection which in full growth will obstruct vision and prove very dangerous to motorists using these roads.

These are only a few thoughts which if acted upon may save accidents. I certainly don't expect our local councillors to go driving around our streets and roads looking for this type of hazard in the enormous area which now is the Shire of Glenelg. The local councillors have more than enough to do, concerning all manner of things.

Possibly some of these observations may come to the attention of officials of the Shire. I would like to see the safety and care of the members of the Shire, the ratepayers, attended to, and these dangerous situations be resolved in the near future. I have only outlined a few of the many danger spots that exist in our immediate district and my primary wish is to see that Jackson Street farce improved, and secondly that Tuckett Street is once more opened up.

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CDHS Minutes: 17th February, 1966. FIRST MEETING

Miss LEAKE read from the life of Rachel HENNING, an interesting extract. Mr. GORMAN played tape readings from "Pioneering Days in Western Victoria" by J C HAMILTON.

Mr. Barry KENT was able to tell anecdotes of J C HAMILTON whom he remembered many years ago. The readings were about Benyeo, (near Apsley) and about Kadnook (Edenhope) station. Originally there were about 30,000 acres, also recorded were the stories of a trip to Portland in 1848 with wool (1/- a lb, and some 8), the early days of Cobb and Co from 1854 onwards.

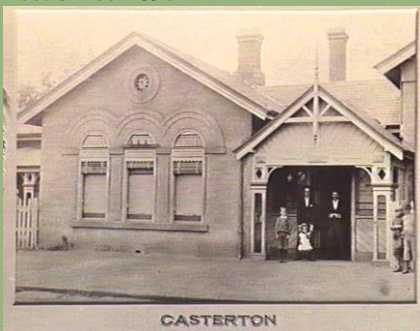
The petrified black fellow found in the Naracoorte caves and the first sign of the Lake at Bringalbut - 10/5/1846.

David EDGAR, Pine Hills, Harrow.



Casterton Community Museum

Post office 1897



CDHS is located at the **Casterton Visitor Information Centre**
e-mail: castertonhistorical@hotmail.com

PO Box 48
Casterton 3311
Phone: 5581 2070

To visit the Casterton Community Museum:
call **David Coventry** on **5581 2475** or email at davidccoventry@yahoo.com.au

To contribute to this newsletter, please contact Ros at the Visitor Information Centre on 5581 2070 or e-mail at roscov48@bigpond.com
H tel 5581 2875

Mrs. K EDGAR then read letters from David EDGAR (Grand Uncle of Mr. Keith EDGAR) written in 1875 of his trip from Melbourne to Harrow.

Dr JOSKE read an interesting account of the S Lagoon, written by D'OMBRAIN, son of Dr D'OMBRAIN who practiced in Casterton about the turn of the century.

31st March 1966

Members were fortunate to be loaned a book by Dame Mary GILMORE, poems which she had autographed and sent to Casterton State School in 1940.

This book has many notes in Dame Mary's hand writing, also one of her poems. Mr. GORMAN also read an article from an old paper on Dame Mary GILMORE, which had a photo of her son at Casterton State School in 1910 their first verse "married" was written in Casterton.

16th June 1966

The president Mr. GORMAN played a tape recording of the Historical Societies visit to Mrs. Ann JONES on the occasion of her 97th birthday held at the home of her daughter Mrs. KNAPSEY.

Mrs. JONES spoke of the early days of Sandford district.

20th July 1966

Talk by Mrs. Anne GAZZARD

A most interesting talk was given by Mrs. GAZZARD, followed by Mrs. RANKIN, on Casterton's early traders and old photos were handed around.

Mrs. GAZZARD stated that the RICHARDSON'S were the oldest family in CASTERTON and the first building the GLENELG INN.

PEDENS started in 1863.

J W PEACHEY sold cider.

Other past traders were RAPKINS, GOODY HARRIS, CAWKERS, GILLS, JEFFREYS, and KIMS.

The hospital was opened in 1906.

Mrs. RANKIN spoke of her grandfather John Craig STEWART who was a partner of Mr. J ANDERSON at Sandford and later went into a blacksmith business which became STEWART and SMITH.

Mrs. RANKIN'S natural Grandmother, Esther CROSGROVE came out in early 1850 from IRELAND and she married E M MCDONALD at the Glenelg Inn before any churches were built by REV RUSSELL.

The names of SMITHS, MCBEAN, MCCAFFREY and LOVELLS as large traders.

17th August 1966

A letter of sympathy be sent to Mrs. Elina JEFFREYS on the death of her sister, Mrs. Jack LEAKE

Mr. GORMAN gave a most interesting talk on Casterton's second postmaster Mr. J J BARRY who was in Casterton until 1890 when he received promotion to Melbourne. The first postmaster was Mr. L F MARCHANT.

Mr. J J BARRY joined the PMG in 1860 and came to Casterton in 1876.

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. J J BARRY was very active in town affairs being chairman of the Casterton Racing Club and Mechanics Institute and Athletic Sports meetings. Vice President of the Horticulture Society, registrar of Births and Deaths, he married Miss FITZGERALD from Harrow and when living in Melbourne called his house in Spring Rd Malvern "Kowree". Following the talk on Mr. J J BARRY. Mr. GORMAN showed the illustrated address presented to him when he left in 1890 and interesting ? program dated 1880. (notes: F J ROWAN'S daughter is now Brenda MITCHELL of "MOREDUN HILL". I went to school with Brenda, she married Bill MITCHELL of "MOREDUN HILL".)

CDHS WEBSITE: we are the Web, visit us at

<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>