

Historical Happenings



Next General Meeting
Wednesday, 21st May at 2.30pm
at the RSL meeting room.

Following the meeting we will meet and select costumes at Trish and Gary Williams' home on Shiels Tce.

The Kelpie Parade float: the theme is **McKinlay's Glenelg Inn / Adelaide Crossing**, as part of our celebrations to commemorate **the 50th Anniversary of CDHS**.

We want to make ours the *Best Float* in 2014. All input and creative ideas welcome. There are many characters - squatters, swaggies, surveyors, workers, inn patrons, bushrangers and settlers' children. Costumes can be provided or you can make or use your own.

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



Casterton Community Museum

A Treatise on Harrow
by Jim Kent

This fascinating hamlet's name originated in England and the reason for its situation is because in the mid 1800s three station boundaries met at this point. A plentiful supply of water was to hand in the Glenelg River, thus a village ensued.

The first European to occupy the area which became the town was an Inn keeper, John Doughney, who with his wife and family erected the first permanent building in 1847. It was called the Foresters Arms Inn and was located where the Logs gaol stands today. Another clue as to how Harrow came to its position is that it was on what was known as the North Track to the Victorian goldfields from Adelaide.

It was not long before land settlement took place around the embryo hamlet and Mr Thomas Rickett took up a huge area of land on the eastern side of the Glenelg River which runs through the town. This property he called Clunie. Later on the Clunie property was taken over by the then Chief Magistrate of the Portland district, Mr James Blair. The main thoroughfare through Harrow is Blair Street, named after him. James built the current Clunie homestead and his son James built the now famous Clunie woodshed.

The Hermitage Hotel is a quaint old building but before it was built there were two other places dispensing liquor – the Foresters Arms and the Harrow Hotel. The Hermitage was originally a store but became a licensed hotel around 1853 and still operates as such today. The hotel has been in continual license since 1854 and lays claim to being the oldest inland licensed hotel in Victoria. Another building of architectural delight is the Kolmar Store which became licensed to sell liquor as an adjunct of to many other items. Before becoming a licenses store it was a bootmaker's premises, built in 1850 and later updated in 1881 to its present state.

Small as it is, Harrow can proclaim to have produced a person on international fame and that person was Johnny Mullagh who in the 1860s toured England for five months playing cricket. An aboriginal of the district, during his overseas sojourn as a cricketer he made an impressive 1,698 runs and took 245 wickets. His grave is in the Harrow Cemetery. Walk Blair Street and you will find some fascinating pieces of architecture. Next to the Calico and Candles shop (built in the 1880s) is a weatherboard house.

From this house in 1885



Casterton Historical Society 50th Anniversary, 2014

In 2014 CDHS will celebrate fifty years..

Last Issue: CDHS Minutes: 17th February, 1966. First Meeting

Errata: this was NOT the first meeting, but the first meeting of which minutes were kept. The first meeting was held early in 1964. Did you pick one that up?

Sacred Heart Pupils c 1911



The Logs gaol



to 1995 a Post Office was operated, the letter posting slot in the front wall is still visible. What is now the RSL clubrooms was originally the Courthouse, built in 1877. Outside this building is an example of the fence James Blair had erected around Clunie. The majestic street lamp in front was erected as a memorial to the Boer War veterans, originally lit by kerosene it is now electric.

Surrounding the township of Harrow are a number of fascinating homesteads of the very early settlers. Close by is Kout Norien built in 1854, in its grounds an 1846 slab cottage, a cook house, a split log shearing shed, a stone shed, and stables. Englefield, Glendinning, Fulham, Kongbool and Nerinyerrie are just some of the homesteads erected many years ago. Many more days would be required to take in all that Harrow and district has to offer those who appreciate the past.

The old log gaol built in 1859, and the nearby Kolang House built in 1876 at the northern end of Blair Street, were shifted to their present site. The museums in Blair Street are very interesting. The Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre Museum is beautifully set up and fascinating even to those who don't have an interest in cricket.

Harrow is situated north-east of Casterton.

<http://www.johnnymullaghricketcentre.com.au/>

<http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au/tourism/harrow>

Stephen Henty and my Great Great Grandfather

by Ros Coventry

It seems entirely probable that my ancestor, Thomas Burr, met Stephen Henty, or other Henty settlers in the area. Settling in Casterton, I began to explore whether I had an earlier connection to the town, or the area. My great-great grandfather, Thomas Burr, was part of an explorative journey between Adelaide, the Coorong and Mount Gambier in 1844. Born in 1813 in Kent, he arrived in Adelaide in December 1839 with wife, Frances, and two babies, one born on the voyage. He was appointed deputy to the Surveyor General, based on the recommendation of Colonel Frome. Burr's father, George, was a teacher of mathematics and surveying and his four sons all became surveyors. Thomas made explorations in SA, west and north, with other explorers before joining the new Governor, George Grey, in 1844, in exploring of the south east of the State.

The six week expedition was documented for the Royal Geographical Society. Burr describes an interesting incident where the party had offered two wandering aboriginals a meal of roast mutton one night and all settled down to sleep. During the night there was a slight commotion emanating from the dogs, but no-one investigated. In the morning it was found the two guests had made off with the governor's silver – happily, the party found it amusing. The image of a tribe eating their future meals with governor's silver is indeed quite comic. Where could that silver be now? There is a treasure to find.

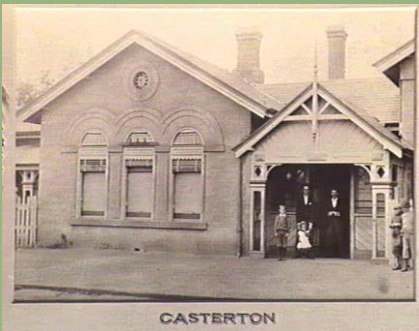
George French Angas did many illustrations of the journey. They camped at Mount Schank where Stephen Henty had set up camp, believing that he was still in what was then New South Wales territory.





Casterton Community Museum

Post office 1897



CDHS is located at the **Casterton Visitor Information Centre**
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Phone: 5581 2070

To visit the Casterton Community Museum:

call **David Coventry** on **5581 2475** or email at davidccoventry@yahoo.com.au

CDHS WEBSITE: we are on the Web, visit us at -

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

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

My surmising is that it is more than likely that they met up with Stephen Henty. The party did meet Charles Bonney, the first sheep overlander from Sydney, opening that route, which passed through the early site of Casterton – called then the Adelaide Crossing on the Glenelg River. The governor's party went as far as the Glenelg River on their travels.

They returned to camp at Rivoli Bay and chose that site for the new town of Robe. Thomas returned in 1846 to do the survey and Robe's layout is his design, rather English in its look, with a central area like a village green in England. Thomas and his partner in business later, his future son-in-law, Frederick Sinnett, also surveyed towns in South Australia's mid north and the Flinders Ranges.

Things were bad in SA in the early 1850s and government workers suffered severe pay cuts. Thomas was offered the lucrative job of overseeing the Burra Mine. The job lasted a year before he was unceremoniously sacked by the management. The miners were striking for better money and Burr supported them. The company was then making enormous profits. He sued the South Australia Company for wrongful dismissal and three thousand pounds. He won his case, but possibly not the monetary recompense. It seems he had little fortune.

He moved to the gold fields – and going overland he may certainly have passed through Casterton. He worked in the Mount Alexander – Ballarat area and he managed to send an amount of gold back to Adelaide to his wife in 1852. His wife's death was in that year while he worked for the survey office. He married again in Castlemaine in 1858, to Isabella, a widow. He was called as a witness to the Eureka stockade hearings. In 1860 in Melbourne he applied to lead what became the fateful Burke and Wills expedition, but was obviously unsuccessful.

Later in 1861 a census record shows him staying in London at the home of his brother-in-law, seeking work or sponsorship from the Royal Geographical Society. Unsuccessful, back in Victoria again he worked finally, it seems unhappily (from autopsy records), in the survey office in Melbourne. He married four times, the last in September 1866 to Alice Spence. He was found dead on a bench in Trafalgar Gardens a week later. The autopsy showed he had a severe heart condition and he had been taking opium. He may have been a disappointed man at the end, but his life seems to have been one of initiative, adventure and purpose. Two sons and a daughter pre-deceased him.

Two daughters remained; Jane married in Melbourne in 1857 to surveyor turned journalist, Frederick Sinnett, author of a book on the city of Adelaide and the State for the Great Exhibition in London in 1857, amongst others. He edited and wrote for Melbourne Punch and other newspapers, and for The Argus, interestingly, reported about the Queensland goldrush, later published as *The Rush to Port Curtis*.

In Memoriam: Deborah Rogers (1938- 30th April 2014). *Historically, Deborah, as a literary agent was a most influential and important person in British book publishing over the past fifty years. She died suddenly last week. She was a great supporter of Australian authors Peter Carey, David Malouf, Thomas Keneally, Richard Neville, amongst many others. I knew her as my employer, and friend, also my educator, whether she knew it or not. She is a huge loss to publishing everywhere, an outstanding human being, invariably kind and generous, eccentric, and with a taste for literature as impeccable as her character. Ros.*

See <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/may/04/deborah-rogers>
