

Casterton and District
Historical Society Inc
Newsletter
JUNE-JULY 2014

Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 18th JUNE.

This is a special meeting. We don't usually have one in June but this time we will have one, in the wake of the Kelpie Festival.

Usual time, 2.30pm at the RSL.

KENT'S CORNER:

Copies available at the VIC of Volume 2: **Roamin' Round the Town** the Visitor Information Centre: cost \$25.

McKINLAY'S INN

KELPIE FESTIVAL, THE BIG DAY



Mrs McKinlay, Madam LaPayne and squatter Noel Norris. Jack the Shingler and squatter Mr M Davis .



Miss Cynthia arrived by Cobb and Co. Jack was busy shingling and also enjoying refreshments.



Thanks to Elders Greg Johnston for transport Dave Thomas built our beautiful Inn



Some forty kilometres south east of Hamilton situated between Caramut and Wickcliffe is a small settlement called Chatsworth. There is not much there, just some old public buildings, a new CFA shed and some dwellings. Nearby runs the Hopkins River which arises in the Pyrenees mountains near Ararat, then wanders down over the western plains to enter the Southern Ocean at the city of Warrnambool.

Just on the outskirts of this small village is a sign attached to a mail box with the wording Chatsworth House. A road leading off up the hill will conduct you to a very fascinating collection of buildings. I first visited this property some fifty years ago with a vintage car club. From memory it was then in a rather derelict state, its huge garden greatly overgrown and for some reason this property remained in my memory, quite often surfacing to mind as on the screen of a computer.

A few months ago the Casterton Regal Pipe Band was commissioned to play for an elaborate wedding at the property. To give you some idea, the budget for the wedding was \$100,000 and we were handsomely paid for our services on the day. What interested me most was the fact that this wedding was to be at Chatsworth House. Over my lifetime I have participated in numerous weddings, from simple to elaborate, but this once eclipsed all the previous ones. The bride arrived in a horse-drawn carriage and the groom in an enormous 1920s American limousine. We piped the bride down through the garden to her awaiting groom.

There you have the reason for my second visit to Chatsworth House and because of this my naturally curious mind again became agitated and to satisfy my curiosity I had to do research as to how and when this property came into being. Its origins go back to Dunbartonshire, Scotland, when Mary Moffat, the wife of John Moffat, gave birth to a son in the year of 1817, his parents christening him John. This son of John and Mary Moffat was to have an amazing though short life on this earth, his span from 1817 to 1871.

Our subject, John Moffat, migrated in 1839 from Scotland to Van Diemen's Land, now known as Tasmania. He then moved to Port Phillip, now Melbourne, to take up a job as a shepherd for the huge agricultural land holding company known as the Clyde Company. This firm had large landholdings in the western district of Victoria, one of these being known as Hopkins Hill after the river that ran through it.



Casterton Community Museum

First Post Office in Casterton,
destroyed by fire and replaced early
20thC



**Casterton Historical Society
50th Anniversary, 2014**

In 2014 CDHS celebrates fifty
years

CDHS is located at the
Casterton Visitor
Information Centre
e-mail: [castertonhistorical@
hotmail.com](mailto: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
roscof48@bigpond.com
H tel 5581 2875

Archives: MINUTES CDHS 1966-68

21st September, 1966

Mr. KIM said that his father had come from China to this district in 1884 and worked at Runnymede. (1966 Cr H D MITCHELLS) father gave Mr. KIM a horse and cart to begin a vegetable garden at "Runnymede".

He later had a garden in Casterton and built up a thriving greengrocers business which is now carried on by his son Mr. Fee KIM.

(notes: Homestead now owned by J A T LAIDLAW (note this is correct at time 21/9/1966, J A T LAIDLAW now deceased and property now owned by J A T LAIDLAW'S son Timothy LAIDLAW)

19th October, 1966

Papers were read by Mr. J GORMAN prepared by Mrs. Jean MURRAY.

Mr. HUTCHISON bought "Runnymede" in 1848, when it consisted of 22,000 acres. A fine woolshed and homestead built by Messes HUTCHISON and MURRAY is still in use at "Runnymede", now owned by Mrs. J LAIDLAW.

In 1851, February, one of the worst bush fires ever took place with great loss of sheep and cattle. This came to be known as Black Thursday.

When the property was divided and sold the homestead was purchased by Mr. J B GILL.

In 1868 there was a big flood of Coleraine, in which 10 men were drowned including Mr. DRUMMOND, uncle of one of our members, Miss. Gordie LEAKE, Mr. HUTCHISON, who owned "Runnymede", Miss Jean MURRAY's father's uncle. The first Kelpie sheepdog ever bred was at "Warrock", Mr. GORMAN read about George ROBERTSON who came from Van Diemens Land in 1831. In 1843 he bought "Warrock" for 300 pounds (with the land which was crown land).

Interesting paragraph was read from a book written in 1922 on the early days.

Memorizing a journey by coach (really a wagon ?) from Portland in 1864.

She pulled up at Glenelg Inn when Mr. DYSON was the landlord – thence by spring cart and draught horse to Chetwynd. Very bad roads. George GORDON lived near the author in Chetwynd, the PO he was in charge of in Harrow.

The CUSSENS were also residents (this Leo CUSSEN is a descendent, also MATHESONS).

(notes: John ROBERTSON of "WANDO VALE" bought "WARROCK" for £300.00 for his cousin George ROBERTSON)

20th March, 1968

A most interesting talk was given by Mr. Ellis TICHLER of Brit Brit, a member of the Balmoral Historical Society in "Shipwrecks along the coast".

Mr. TICHLER said that shipping was very important in the early days when roads and bridges were non existent and that ships formed a vital link in the daily well being of the settlers.

Mr. TICHLER covered the Ports from 1802 to the end of the century and many vessels " Casino", "Devon", "Ardmella", "Marina" and many others.

On 1844 " Casterton News" loaned by Mrs. RANKIN had advertisements covering service of these vessels.

15th May, 1968

An interesting talk was given by Mr. Jack GORMAN on the 1946 floods and many photos were produced. This was the largest flood since 1906.

Members recalled experiences of 1946 floods Mr. GORMAN has sent this paper to " Parade".

888888888888888888888888

CDHS WEBSITE: we are the Web, visit us at

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

888888888888888888888888