

Casterton and District  
Historical Society Inc  
Newsletter

OCTOBER 2014



**NEXT MEETING:**

**October ,Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm at the RSL Hall.**

**Clean-up at the Old Cemetery**

**Come along on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am if you can.** Lyn is away until late October but we can do some more tidying in the meantime. November is now the time proposed for unveiling of the name board.

**VISIT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

**Members, you can assist in recommending a place - if you know the owners do ask them about a visit.**

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Hello members of CDHS from your new President, Evelyn Pevitt

I am writing something about myself, as some members do not know me. My husband and I came to Casterton in 1997, as a tree-change from Melbourne. I have always loved history and following the ancestral family tree. After all this time I decided to join the Historical Society and I am now the elected President.

I am also the President of Bahgallah Memorial Hall and was Secretary of the Bahgallah Indoor Bowls Club for

# Historical Happenings



**Casterton Community Museum**

## Places of Interest

by Jim Kent

Our township of Casterton is blessed with many places where those interested in sport or recreation can indulge their inclinations. Name it, we have it; the sacred football ovals of Island Park, bowling greens, tennis, swimming facilities, cricket, croquet and up the road a bit, a magnificent golf course. On the outskirts of our park for the juveniles is found a splendid skate park. Our town and district are most fortunate to have access to all these amenities.

But there is one public place that receives only occasional visits from the public, who in most cases attend in a sad and sombre mood, and that is the Casterton New Cemetery. It is named New because at one time our town had two operational cemeteries, one referred to as the Old and the other, the New.

The earliest known burial at the Old Cemetery was that of a George Wyman in February 1858, whilst across the valley there took place around 1870 the burial of a young girl, her burial place identified by a headstone in the New Cemetery. The reasons behind having two cemeteries arose from the difficulty the horse-drawn hearse had getting to the Old Cemetery. This problem caused a petition to be presented to the local council for a new cemetery to be located on a hill south of the town on a ten acre block of crown land and in time this petition was successful.

In most cases the country cemeteries are under the control of a board of trustees who are volunteers and who conduct the business of running the cemeteries and who are appointed by the local shire for a period of time and who can be reallocated for further terms. In my case I followed my Father who because of old age asked me to take his place as a trustee of the New Cemetery in 1964, and I have remained there ever since. The Trustees choose a chairperson, secretary and treasurer to control the running of the business and finances.

The only income coming from the sale of burial plots which is a small percentage of the cost of monumental works, sale of niches for the containment of ashes, and the odd case of public donation. The Trust is governed by the Department of Health under the Cemeteries and Crematoria Unit. Regional cemeteries are in most cases not recipients of grant monies to carry out new work and are expected to be self-financed which severely hinders expansion. For some years now the Trust has not

10 years. If you have concerns or new ideas I am happy and willing to listen to them. I am currently hoping to open the Museum once a month – a lot of cleaning has to be done, and it remains on open by appointment as usual.

Thank you, Evelyn

**Historic homestead visit**

September: we made a trip to Murndal near Hamilton, a property established by **Samuel Pratt Winter**. It is a fascinating house – we were most fortunate to see much of the family history and artefacts contained within.



Front faces the Wannan River



Dining room and ancestral portraits / Library



been in the financial situation of being able to afford a caretaker, and the Trustees have maintained the grounds, to the best of their ability, with only a voluntary position. Presenting a tidy cemetery is a massive job.

Not that long ago there were no toilet facilities and for the cost of \$11,000 we had a multi-use toilet built. We have also provided two repositories for the ashes of the deceased with the financial help of the local Lions Club. The Lions also assisted in replacing our boundary fences. Some twenty four years ago the Trust embarked on providing a Lawn cemetery of two hundred and eighty five burial plots, bearing in mind the high number of elderly people residing in Casterton.

Regional cemeteries are in most cases not recipients of grant monies to carry out new work and are expected to be self-financed which severely hinders expansion. For some years now the Trust has not been in the financial situation of being able to afford a caretaker, and the Trustees have maintained the grounds, to the best of their ability, with a voluntary position. The presenting a tidy cemetery is a massive job.

All these works have depleted the finances of the Trust and we now find ourselves exploring all avenues to raise some \$25,000 needed to carry out work on the new lawn section. The Shire has submitted a quote to carry out earthworks and the making of an access road. Before our Trust can commence this work we must have the ability to pay, as the Council operates on a thirty day pay period. Our Trust has currently sufficient funds to finance the earthworks side of this venture, where a grader costs \$132 per hour to hire and a plinth for the headstone costs \$800 - we need sixteen plinths. The road will cost approximately \$15,000.

We have in front of the Health Department an application for a grant of monies but do not expect it to be received as we would wish, in our favour. At the October meeting I will put forward to our Society a plea for monetary assistance to help the Casterton New Cemetery Trust begin the construction of new Lawn Section.

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**MURNDAL**

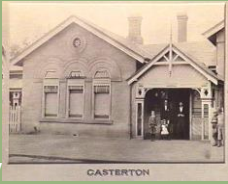
The property, which has remained in the same family, was first called Spring Valley in 1837. George, Trevor and Samuel Winter emigrated first to Van Diemen's Land from Ireland. Sister Arbella also emigrated, marrying Cecil Pybus Cooke, met on the journey. The name of the the family, Winter Cooke, came from this union.

Samuel Pratt Winter built the first homestead and installed Arbella as caretaker when he travelled and spend long periods away. Samuel was not keen on the shearing season and was not to be found there at that time. Arbella was very capable woman who was not averse to herding sheep and riding horses. Her sons were sent to England to be educated writing letters from there full of home-sick pathos, and came back to the station in due course.

As a very well educated man who built up a very good library, Samuel loaned his books to others of the district who shared his intellectual tastes, such as Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh of Muntham and the Rev Dr Russell on the Wannan. He also had ancestral family portraits in Ireland copied to hang on the walls of Murndal and which are still there.



**Casterton Community Museum**



**1897  
post office**



**Kelpie parade 2014**

**Casterton Historical Society  
50<sup>th</sup> 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: 5580 2070**

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

To contribute to this newsletter,  
please contact Ros at the Visitor  
Information Centre on 5581 2070  
e-mail: [roscov48@bigpond.com](mailto:roscov48@bigpond.com)  
tel 5581 2875



He was a tall, handsome man, and he never married but any romantic liaisons remain undiscovered. It was said he went to Europe to bring back a bride at some stage, but this did not eventuate in a wedding. At his funeral an unknown woman mourner was cause for much speculation in the district.



**CASTERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES 1966**

*Last editon to 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1966*

**19<sup>th</sup> 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)

**20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**15<sup>th</sup> 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".

**19<sup>th</sup> June 1968**

A most interesting talk was given by Mrs. Bert NEWTON, assisted by Mrs. Connie LIVOCK, on the history of the RICHARDSON family of which they are descendent.  
The first wedding celebrated in Casterton was Mr. and Mrs. RICHARDSON in 1851, married at the Glenelg Inn by Father LOWHAM. Mary Ann, the first of their 10 children was the first white child born in Casterton.  
Mr. RICHARDSON put the shingles on the Glenelg Inn in 1848, the year Casterton was ordained a township. The first name was Crossing Place.

**CDHS WEBSITE: we are the Web, visit us at  
<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>**