

Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum

Next General Meeting

JULY 15th at 2pm at the Visitor Information Centre.

AGM: 19th August at the Glenelg Inn. Lunch at 12: meeting at 1.30pm.

KELPIE FESTIVAL, JUNE 6th

The ladies are setting off on a railway excursion



Mrs Mac enjoyed the parada



It occurs to me, and it is a fact, that we have a predominance of elderly people in our town, in common with many small towns in the nation. With this in mind I ran through a list of people whom I know living in Casterton who, believe it or not, are over ninety years of age – I counted sixteen females and eleven males.

Within my own parent's family I am in the middle. I have a 96 year old sister and a 93 year old brother, then me, then an 85 year old sister and an 80 year old youngest sister. Fortunately we all enjoy a relatively good and healthy life – we may all have to be shot on Judgement Day at this rate.

Goodness knows how many residents there are in Casterton between the ages of seventy and one hundred years of age. It could be said to be a dormitory town and we are fortunate to have on tap places like Glenelg House and Edgarley as aged care facilities. When I was a small boy I regarded any person of seventy or more as really very old. My parents' forebears were all long lived, so I suppose with these genes and modern medicine life expectancy has been extended.

I made mention of the rather large number of people over ninety and I also note that living elsewhere are three female and three male who are former Casterton residents. A death notice in the local paper made me consider this and I refer to the death of Jack Norris who was over ninety. I went to school with Jack and his brother Frank. Both were handy footballers and we used to ride our bikes to play the Sandford school on the old Sandford racecourse. Jack and Frank were relatives of our member and Vice President, Noel Norris, to whom we extend our condolences.

Also, within the membership of our local RSL we have quite a few knocking on the door of ninety years of age. Enough now of old age; which, with luck, comes to us all. I apologize for my absence at the May meeting due to a leg injury which kept me penned up in hospital for a week. I will be back at the next meeting.

I am very fortunate to have children with very positive work inclination and they have all excelled in their various choices of career. After twenty five years in the police force, my sixty three year old son came back to Casterton after being in charge of the Murtoa police station. He and his artist wife restored a lovely old home in Searle Street in Horsham. Then he pulled down buildings and cleaned one hundred thousand old bricks to build a magnificent two storey home on sixteen acres on the Stawell Road out of Horsham. Everything in the building of it was recycled with the exception of new electrical goods. They then sold it for a million



Casterton Community Museum



Only 245 miles to Melbourne



Waiting for the train with the satorially splendid Cuthbert Fetherstonehaugh. The train is due on Sept. 10 at 9.16am, in 1888.



Mr N P Norris, husband of town notable, Ellie Norris, swaggie Laurie Stokes and Jack *The Shingler*. Richardson setting off to harass festival revellers with interesting and inopportune suggestions.

KENT'S CORNER:

Copies available at the VIC of Volume 2: **Roamin' Round the Town by Jim Kent**

dollars and bought twenty eight acres on the Old Mount Gambier Road. It had a house of sorts on it, with a tin shed. To look at it today the house and garden are testament to their expertise in renovation. Now, after all this, he is at it again. This time he has bought one of the oldest cottages in Sandford and is currently restoring it to its original glory.

In my youth it was the home of the Little family. John and Tom were the Little brothers whom my father teamed up with to form Little & Kent which went from blacksmith and carriage shop to motor garage, situated at number one Henty Street, and now Casterton Farm Supplies. In the garage days Miss Little ran the post office at Sandford from this little brick house and stamps in those days were two pence for a sealed envelope and once pence unsealed, one or two cents today. All the mail from Little & Kent outwards was taken to Sandford and went through the Sandford Post Office which kept up the quantity of outward mail attributed to it. I hope to live long enough to see my son restore the old post office.

Thanks must go the Historical Society from the Trustees of the New Cemetery for the generous donation to the cemetery fund. The twenty thousand dollar project being undertaken is divided into the two new lawn sections. One of these is the supply of town water for irrigation purposes and a new water main will place the aged existing one that has for some years taken much time in repair work. The said generous donation will finance this much needed improvement.

My comments and photos of the carving on the downed limb of the huge Bilston's Tree appeared in the Outback magazine and has caused quite some comment and some corresponding visits. Just recently the Hamilton Vintage Car Club made its Sunday run a visit to the tree to see the chainsaw artistry

Jim Kent

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Casterton & District Historic Railway Station

The railway line to Casterton was opened in September 1884. Construction of the Railway Station started in 1886. A.C. Findley constructed it and the Architect/Designer was Robert Watson. The Architectural style is known as Victorian Period Gothic Revival (1851-1901). The opening ceremony consisted of a banquet; the principal guest was the Hon. W. Shiels M.L.A, representative of Normanby.

A mixed Passenger-goods train continued to operate on the Casterton Line until 1949 when the passenger service was withdrawn. On the 15th March 1954, a rail-car service between Branxholme and Casterton was started on a trial basis. Unfortunately, this was also removed on 31st July 1954.

Goods trains continued to use the line until 1977, with the railway station closing on 3rd March 1977. The magnificent old railway bridge spanning the Glenelg River, just south of the railway station was sold for removal in 1986, a little over a century after being built.





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 davidcoventry@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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

“It comprises a substantial standard building with a cast iron platform verandah. The detail to the entrance gable end and booking lobby remains intact.

Casterton Railway Station is historically significant in recalling the dominance of the port of Portland as an outlet to the Glenelg and Wannon River, wool and livestock traffic as well as the rivalry for traffic shown by the South Australian Railways and the town of Hamilton. It is also historically significant as an important example of a standard station building that arose from the ‘Octopus’ Act of 1884.

The Railway Station is architecturally significant as a substantially intact example of the ‘Casterton Style’ of railway buildings. The ‘Casterton Style’ represents the first departure from the previous Classical/Italianate station designs to use the Gothic and Tudor detailing. The stations were typically located at major points on the main lines.”

Source: Government Buildings Register Review of Country Railway Places – Former Casterton Railway Station Complex, Beeston, R., 1995.

STATION MASTERS 1925-1977

NAME	From	To
MINTY, D.G.	17-07-1925	06-09-1926
FITZGIBBON, E. M.	03-09-1926	16-09-1926
NORWOOD, L.	13-09-1926	11-06-1929
LARKINS, A.	01-07-1929	23-09-1931
CLARKE, J.	22-09-1931	13-10-1933
SMITH, A. G.	02-11-1933	25-05-1948
COOPER, E.	15-06-1948	07-08-1950
CEACH ?, J. A.	05-08-1950	15-10-1953
COLEMAN, A. J.	15-10-1953	04-05-1955
HUON ?, L. W.	05-05-1955	16-04-1958
SMITH, W. J.	16-04-1958	26-04-1961
HEDGES, W. L.	01-05-1961	02-08-1966
WILLIAMSON, A. S.	21-09-1966	25-10-1967
NELSON, L. J.	01-03-1968	14-04-1975
WILLIAMS, C.	15-04-1975	??-??-19??
POVEY, J. M.	??-??-19??	14-03-1977

The station is 245 miles from Melbourne (20 chains)

All Stations Masters resided at the Department Residence, which, consisted of a 6-room home. 2- 18x12 and 4- 12x10 rooms C.W. & Bathroom, Water and Electric Light, later an electric hot water service was added, they lived rent-free.

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