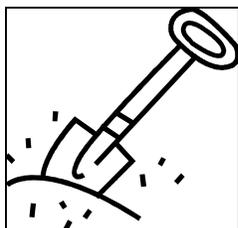


# CASTERTON NEW PUBLIC CEMETERY

## FRIENDS OF THE CASTERTON NEW PUBLIC CEMETERY NEWSLETTER



**NEXT WORKING  
BEE**

**12TH AUGUST 2007**

**9AM-12NOON**

**Followed by a BBQ**

*All Welcome*

**It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing."**



**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**12TH AUGUST, 2007**

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**SECRETARY: PETER GORMAN:**

**TELEPHONE: 55 811381**

**CHAIR: JAMES P KENT:**

**TELEPHONE: 55 811414**

## OBITUARIES

**Francis George Underwood died 24/4/1958**

A highly respected resident of Casterton and a great church worker, Mr Francis George Underwood, passed away on April 24 after a long illness. He was 80.

An ardent Methodist, he gave long and varied service to the Casterton Church. He was a local preacher for 37 years, a trustee for 33 years, taught in the Sunday School and rose to be superintendent for some years. On several occasions he represented the Church at district synods and at annual conferences in Melbourne.

Son of the late Eliza and Charles Underwood he was born in Penshurst in 1877.

Thirty years later he moved Casterton, where he became widely known as a carter for Chittocks and Carters

Bakeries. Then he spent 21 years as an employee at "the general store" conducted by Goodman Harris and his successors Osborne and Johnson.

In this latter period he drove the Harrow mail for six years.

Most of his life he was a member of MUJOOF and he was a trustee of the Casterton Cemetery until a few days before he died.

He is survived by his widow, formerly Miss May Millard, whom he married in the Casterton Methodist Church in 1909, and two daughters, Ada ( Mrs H Teague, Dingee) and Doris ( Mrs N Davis, Colac). One son, Millard, pre deceased him.

One of a family of 10, Mr Underwood is also survived by three sisters, Miss May Underwood, Ascot Vale; Mrs Jack Beaton, Konong Wootong; and Mrs Bert Morley, Brisbane; and a brother, Mr William Underwood, Penshurst.

The service at the graveside was conducted by Rev D Ireson.

From the Casterton News, 25th April 1958, Pg 5

## FAMOUS PEOPLE BURIED IN OUR CEMETERY

### DELAMORE WILLIAM MCCAY

(1877-1958)

Born on 8 January 1877 at Castlemaine, Victoria, sixth son of Rev. Andrew Ross Boyd McCay, Presbyterian minister, and his wife Lily Ann Esther Waring, née Brown.

Educated at Castlemaine Grammar School.

In 1906, Delamore joined the Melbourne *Argus*.

Delamore reported the inauguration ceremonies of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

In 1912 he was recruited to work on Sir Hugh Denison's Sydney daily *Sun*.

His brother Adam who was also in the journalism business was the first 'Peter Persnerkus', an identity later assumed by

Delamore.

Delamore was appointed news editor from 1915, and was associate editor in 1917-19. He became editor of the *Sun* in 1919.

Delamore served as London manager and editor of the Sun-Herald Cable Service in 1921-24, returning as editor of the *Sun* in March 1924.

Appointed editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers Ltd in 1934, next year he led the Australian delegation to the Imperial Press Conference in South Africa.

From 1937 he was London representative of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, returning to Australia in 1939 to become secretary of the Australian Newspaper Proprietors' Association (1939-48), and of the Australian Newspapers' Council until he retired in 1950.

Both Delamore and his brother Adam earned reputations as outstanding journalists.

Delamore was recognized for his political commentaries and editorials as well as for his verse, marked by 'delicacy of perception' and 'incisive wit'.

Delamore ('Del') too was remembered by a colleague as 'an explosive personality' with 'an inexhaustible fund of quite original expletives'.

Delamore McCay retired to Casterton, Victoria, where he died on 19 May 1958 and was buried with Anglican rites. His wife and four daughters survived him.

He is buried in the Presbyterian Section. His wife Frances Eva McCay is buried in the Presbyterian section (E15).

### HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES OF CASTERTON ( CONT) CHRIST CHURCH

Casterton was part of the District of Wannon and Glenelg, which was created by the Bishop of Melbourne to ease the load of the vicar of Portland who was the only ordained clergyman in the western part of the state prior to 1848. The Rev Cussack Russell first held services in homesteads and common schools around the area. In 1865 the people of Casterton decided to build their own church, the corner stone was laid by Mrs McPherson on 8th May, 1865 and the church was finished in 1866. The inscription on the trowel used by Mrs McPherson reads, "Presented by the parishioners of Casterton to Marie McPherson of Nan-geela on Laying the cornerstone of Christ Church, Casterton, 8th May, 1865. Christ Church consecrated 4th November, 1877".

The minutes books of the era are not available, so that a lot of the very early history has to be here say.

It is interesting to note that there were only three Rectors in the first six years in the parish of Casterton.

The most imposing and priceless possession of Christ Church are the stained glass windows. These windows in the Sanctuary were purchased by the parishioners.

The many beautiful pieces of furniture used during the services are testimony to the care and reverence the people felt for their church. It is this care for their place of worship and their love of God that has seen Christ Church survive many lows and during its long and interesting history.

From :  
The Parish of Casterton  
1850-1990  
"An ongoing history"  
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam  
D J Black



CHRIST CHURCH, CIRCA 1880  
NOTE: ORIGINAL CASTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL ON LEFT

**"SOME CLERGY"**

- Rev F T Cussack Russell 1850-1876
- Rev John Horton McFarlane 1873-1877
- Rev R J E Hayman 1887-1888
- Rev Pobjoy (Curate) 1889 - 1890
- Rev John A Ball 1894-1910
- Rev Melville Charles James 1911-1912
- Rev Frederick Stillwell 1913-1918
- Rev John James McCall 1918-1921
- Rev James Alexander MacQueen 1921-1935

**Headstone Inscriptions**

Headstone inscriptions have been done up until March 2004. These are available from the Secretary Peter Gorman and also the Casterton and District Historical Society.Inc.



There is a need to continue the process of transcribing the headstones from March 2004. Any persons interested in becoming involved in this project, please place an expression of interest to the Secretary , Mr Peter Gorman.



*Like antiques, every burial ground is a treasure of the past, which needs to be protected and preserved.*

*Conservation is better than restoration.*

**WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM A CEMETERY?**

**GRAVES: Special Skills required to Conserve Monuments**

The care of monuments usually requires the skills of specialists such as monumental masons and letter cutters. Works to stone monuments and historic graves could require the skills of trained conservators. Unskilled persons should not attempt to clean or restore a monument without first obtaining appropriate advice.

**RECORDS: Cemetery records**

The records relating to a cemetery are essential to the story it tells. The records must be conserved as well as the monuments and graves.



Christ Church Choir  
Casterton. 1887-88

**Christ Church Choir: 1888**

Standing: Mary James, Unknown, Pev Hayman, Mr Meldrum, Mary Tytherleigh, Mrs Frank White  
Sitting: V James, Miss Davis, Mrs Davis (organist)  
Mrs Bates, Mrs ? (Harriet, Sandford)

THANKYOU  
FOR  
HELPING  
THE  
CASTERTON NEW CEMETERY  
TRUST  
AT THE  
LAST  
WORKING BEE

**The Choir**

A very important part of the early church was the choir. Records show that the Choirmaster as a position of responsibility and an annual fee was paid to the Choirmaster to compensate him for the long hours spent in training the members of the choir.

**The Organist**

The organist along with the choir, plays a very important part in the liturgy of the church.

It is noted in the minutes of 1885 that the Christ Church organist received twenty pounds per annum. (The Rectors stipend was only two hundred pounds)



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