

Casterton New Public Cemetery

Friends of the New Cemetery Newsletter



**CEMETERY
MAPPING PROJECT
DAY
23TH AUGUST 2008
10 am to 12 noon**

**WORKING BEE
31ST AUGUST
8AM TO 12 NOON
(WORKING BEE)
Followed by BBQ**

*August 2008
Volume 2, Issue 4*

• *Suffragettes of 1891
buried in our
cemetery
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• *Obituaries of some
of our suffragettes
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Suffragettes of 1891 buried in our Cemetery

In an extraordinary effort to gain the right to vote for all Victorian women, a handful of dedicated women took to the streets in 1891 to collect signatures for a petition to present to the Parliament of Victoria. The result was an impressive collection of close to 30,000 signatures from women from all walks of life.

Tabled in Parliament in September 1891, with the support of then Premier James Munro, the petition sought that 'Women should Vote on Equal terms with Men'

Now one of the State's archival treasures, the Women's Suffrage Petition (1891) reflects the dedicated work of those women, who went from door to door across Victoria to collect the signatures. Its tremendous length earned it the name of the 'Monster Petition'

The original petition is approximately 260 metres long and 200mm wide and is made of paper pasted to cotton or linen fabric backing, rolled onto a cardboard spindle which rests on a Perspex stand. It takes three people three hours to unroll the petition from one spool to another – a slow and careful process. The approximate 30,000 signatures vary in quality and

colour inks, even pencil

Several interesting signatures adorn the top of the petition, including:

- *Margaret McLean* (as Mrs William McLean), head of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and campaigner for women's rights and the vote
- *Jane Munro* (as Mrs James Munro), wife of the Premier who presented the petition to Parliament
- *Margaret Higinbotham*, wife of George Higinbotham who was a controversial politician and lawyer
- *Bessie Lee*, a working-class woman who became famous as a temperance campaigner and author.

The petition also played an important role in Federation, because in 1901 Australia became the first nation in the world to give women both the right to vote and the right to stand for Parliament.

Many women in Casterton signed the petition and some are buried in our cemetery. A few of their obituaries are presented here in memory of their efforts.

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



**Casterton New
Cemetery Aerial View**



Suffragettes of 1891 buried in our cemetery cont

TAKEN FROM THE CASTERTON NEWS
BURIED MAY 13TH 1939

**Passed away
Mrs Annie Jeffreys**

The death occurred very suddenly on Saturday afternoon at her residence "Lyndhurst" Henty Street Casterton of Mrs Annie Jeffreys, relict of the late Mr John Jeffreys. The deceased had sustained a broken leg and severe shock in a motor accident near Kerang on the evening of Monday 24th April, and after treatment at the Kerang Hospital by Dr R Munro, formerly of Casterton, with her daughters, Mrs Ethel Leake and Miss Elma Jeffreys, who also sustained injuries in the accident, she was brought to Casterton on Tuesday evening last. She appeared none the worse for the long journey, and her condition was regarded as satisfactory, but about 9.15pm on Saturday she quietly passed away. Mrs Jeffreys was a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Cox and was born at Portland on November 11th 1854 and was thus 84 years of age.

Her husband, Mr John Jeffreys, died some years ago, and there are three daughters and two sons as follows: - Ethel (Mrs John Leake, Casterton), Maude (St Kilda), Robert (Marong), Ernest and Elma (Casterton). One daughter, Alice, is predeceased. One brother, and three sisters survive, as follows: - Mary (Mrs McDonald, Sandford), Elizabeth (Mrs Mitchell, Sandford), Maggie (Mrs Retchford, Melbourne) and Mr James Cox (Sandford).

Deceased was well and highly respected in the town, being one of the most active lady workers for the Casterton hospital at the time when the annual bazaar was held and supporting the first move to establish it, and continuing as a strong supporter at all times.

The Ladies Benevolent Society which did untold good work for many years in the early days of Casterton was also well supported by deceased, who through all her many activities found time to be an active member of the Church of England supporting all its organizations and regularly attending the Church services. In her case, Scripture can be aptly quoted " She rests from her labours and her works do follow her".

The funeral took place this afternoon, a large number of sorrowing friends following her remains to the Casterton New Cemetery where the interment took place. The coffin bearers were four nephews of the deceased; Messrs Russell Cox, Richard Mitchell, Edgar and Claude Jeffreys. The Rev Leslie Burgess conducted the burial service, and Mr C A Anderson carried out the mortuary arrangements

Exert from "The suffragettes of Casterton & District" booklet being launched on the 31/8/2008 at Digby Revisited

JEFFREYS (JEFFRIES), Annie, Casterton, appears to be Annie JEFFREYS (nee COX, 1854-1939), 37 year old wife of John JEFFREYS (1855-1933), who signed the Women's Suffrage Petition in Casterton in 1891. Annie COX was born Portland, Victoria, daughter of Charles Yates COX and Mary NOONAN. She married in 1881 at Casterton to John JEFFREYS (1855-1933), Saddler of Casterton and they had 6 children born at Casterton from 1881-1897. Annie died at Casterton in 1939 from injuries received in a car accident. John JEFFREYS died at Casterton in 1933 and they are both buried in the Casterton New Cemetery.

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Casterton New Cemetery

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Chair:

Mr Geoff Hortle

55811020

DIGBY REVISITED WEEKEND

*Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st
August*

10 to 4pm Saturday

10 to 3pm Sunday

*Launch of "The suffragettes of
Casterton and District" book
on the Saturday.*

*Casterton Historica Society
Family History Expo*

*Photographic Exhibition, Vern
McCallum Photographic
Exhibition, Back To Digby
School Reunion, Vintage Cars,
Cobb & Co Coach plus much
more....*

TAKEN FROM THE CASTERTON NEWS

**Mrs Mary Smith
Died 13th May 1943**

One of Casterton's oldest residents, Mrs Mary Smith, died at her residence Henty Street Casterton at 11 o'clock on Friday night last at the age of 87 years.

The widow of Mr George Smith, who pre deceased her 24 years ago, deceased was born in Portland being a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Gill.

Mrs Smith came to Casterton as a child of ten years. Her husband was a ranger for the Shire at the time of his death and had previously conducted a butchery.

For over 40 years, the family home has been in the brick cottage on the southern side and eastern end of Henty Street.

The mother of a large family, Mrs Smith is survived by a family of three sons and six daughters. The sons are John George and William (all of Casterton) and the daughters are Mrs John Blair, Mrs J A Campbell and Mrs John C Richardson (all of Casterton), Mrs John Diwell (Jeparit) Mrs W Howlett (Dergholm) and Mrs Jaggard (Preston). Two surviving brothers, Messrs Edward and George Gill reside in Melbourne and a surviving step brother Mr J Hale lives in Portland. Mrs Farnsworth a surviving sister lives in Melbourne.

Mrs Smith also leaves 52 grandchildren and 44 great grandchildren. No less than 14 grandsons are serving in the fighting forces.

The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon last, the cortege leaving from her residence for the Casterton new cemetery where the Vicar of Christ Church (Rev L H Williams) conducted the services.

Funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs W J Peden and Son.

*Newsletter
Friends of the Casterton New
Cemetery
c/o Gormans Real Estate
Henty Street
Casterton, 3311*

