

Casterton New Public Cemetery

Friends of the New Cemetery Newsletter



**CEMETERY
MAPPING PROJECT
DAY**
2nd & 4th Saturdays
of the month

WORKING BEE
28th March
8AM TO 12 NOON
(WORKING BEE)

*March 2010
Volume 4, Issue 1*

*Page 1 & 2 - Heath
monument and
family history by
Ewan Neeson*

*Page 3 - New road
works at the
Cemetery*

A few details of the Heath family from Ewan Neeson

Richard Heath from England owned a hotel in Hamilton, then in 1866 is listed as the owner of the Hermitage Hotel in Harrow. In 1879 he is shown as a Trustee of the Hamilton Cemetery.

A son William married Ann Quigley daughter of Mr and Mrs John Quigley, Wannon Hotel, Rushworth.

William bought property at Tarrayoukyan called Burthong – either named by himself or previous owners.

A son William was born there in 1897 and baptized at St Josephs Tarrayoukyan. William Snr is listed in 1879 as a magistrate (JP).

At some time Mrs Ann Heath and some of the family moved to Casterton and William Jnr was a secretary or did some work at the store of Goodman Harris. I think later he may have been an agent of some sort. He also had brothers John, Stanley(Killed late in the First World War) and Richmond who died as a comparatively young man.



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



Casterton New
Cemetery Aerial View

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**Commencing the
mapping project at the
cemetery in 2008**

William Jnr was introduced, by my mother Kathleen Neeson – nee Gilbo, to her great friend Nell Carrick. They were both teachers in Casterton. William Jnr married Nell Carrick – 1923/24. Nell had two brothers who were high up in Insurance companies, one I think with City Mutual and one with National Mutual. I can't remember which Bill and Jim were with. Also a sister Mrs O'Brien around Hawkesdale.

William Jnr's son William was born 23-7-1925 and was educated at the Casterton Convent. He did his matriculation in 1940 and was a brilliant student – (or was it leaving certificate in that era).

William Jnr died in 1939 aged 62 years.

Following his death Nell for a short time brought the three youngest children to my parents at Nareen, John and Kathleen Neeson. John the youngest was only about 8 or 9 months of age. The older ones stayed with friends in Casterton, some at least with Bill and Evelyn O'Connell.

These are just a few memories I have of Bill and great friend for over 70 years and of his family. I think they are correct of Bill - William Carrick Heath - W C Heath. "Danny" Heath as he was referred to by his medical colleagues.

Many years ago at the church hall in Casterton either a farewell to the Heath family or maybe a reception to Damien after his ordination, a speech by Bill O'Connell referred to a word that had almost disappeared from our vocabulary – " a spot" – in other words to go to a pub for a drink.

He stated when John Batman sailed up the Yarra he declared "This was the spot for a village" when Richard Heath arrived in Hamilton he declared that this was " the village for a spot" so he set up a pub.

Hope something can be gained from these memories

Note: Recent work on the headstone has been undertaken at the request of the Heath family.



**WORKING BEE AT THE
CEMETERY
SUNDAY March
28th 2010
8 am to 12 noon**

The mapping project continues but is almost complete with only 2 rows to go in the Church of England Section. Once this is done, we will re walk all the sections again to check off what has been recorded. This month marks 2 years since we started the project and what a remarkable job has been done by the volunteers.

With the recent upgrades with the road works, a few modifications will be in order for us with our mapping!

Some recent changes at the Cemetery

Road works at cemetery.

Sealing of the tracks around the various areas of the cemetery has now been completed. This will allow all weather access for vehicle and foot traffic.

Special thanks to long serving trustee James P Kent who orchestrated the formation of the roadwork and drainage associated with it. He was able to call on his experience as a grader driver with the Shire of Glenelg some 50 years ago and after hiring the grader from Pullen's, Jim once again stepped into the cabin and completed the formation of the final track which encircled the Methodist Section prior to sealing.

It will certainly be a lasting memento of the work and contribution Jim has made to the cemetery during his time as trustee. He can also regularly be seen riding the mower and attending to the up keep of the lawn cemetery.

Casterton is indeed indebted to Jim not only for his contribution to the cemetery but in many other roles in the town.



New Ashes Plinth and road in the Methodist section



New road at the Methodist Section/Presbyterian Section

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

