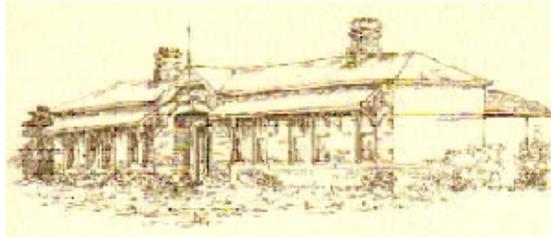


May 2009

Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum

Special items in our newsletter:

The Making of Modern

Australia: Report page 1

Our Mechanical Pioneers

by Jim Kent: Report page 2

Chetwynd Day: Report page 3

SPECIAL FILM & DINNER EVENING

Next Meeting of the Casterton
Historical Society will be on
**Wednesday 20th May
at Merino Hotel and
cinema.**

The fundraiser features the
film

**Cattle Stories and Bush
Yarns** (f the Glenelg Shire)

Dinner: 5.30 pm

Film: 7.30 pm

Cost: \$ 20 dinner

Film only: \$ 5

All welcome.

Please advise Ros if you
are attending **by Friday,
8th May. tel: 5581 2875**



Chetwynd trip: first stop at
The Hummocks to hear about
the Fighting Hills massacre
and the mining of serpentine
rock there

Calling for Social History Stories: The Making of Modern Australia

A new online history project - and soon to be ABC TV series - invites people from all over Australia to tell their personal and family history stories online.

As both a broadband project and TV series, The Making of Modern Australia will be an unofficial people's history, with individuals and families sharing their stories of life in Australia since 1945. By logging onto www.makingaustralia.com.au people can upload their stories through a combination of photos, home movies, live webcams, sound recordings and text.

We are particularly looking for stories that are engaging, unusual, amusing, uplifting or perhaps heartbreaking. The stories can be about anything at all, but the TV series will be made up of four episodes, each one looking at a different theme:

- * faith and religion
- * romance and relationships
- * parenting and childhood
- * the Australian home/a sense of place

Where access to the internet or technical skills are limited, people may want to engage the help of younger family members to include

their stories and pictures on the website.

Alternatively they can send via the postal system a written copy of their story along with some notes on any photos or other visual material they may have to support the story. Dust off the old family albums, or finally grab a digital camera and interview a friend or relative about what life was like for them growing up, getting married and making a home in Australia.

Those interested in having their family stories featured in the TV series are urged to get started and upload their material **immediately** – **see contact details for information about deadlines**. All stories will be showcased on the website as a lasting record for others to enjoy and comment on. Lovers of History please spread the word so we can gather as many wonderful stories as possible across seven decades from a broad cross-section of people.

If you'd like more information on the project, visit the website or contact

Elissa McKeand E:
[elissa.mckeand@essential-
media.com](mailto:elissa.mckeand@essential-media.com) T: (02) 8568 3100.
PO Box 283 Annandale NSW 2038



A Salute to Our Mechanical Pioneers by local historian, Jim Kent

Thursday, May 14th at 2.30pm
INVITATION
to afternoon tea
 to members who will be volunteers at the Visitor Information Centre – an opportunity to meet with A&C Committee, familiarize ourselves with details of the VIC and discuss roles in our new venture.
RSVP to VIC by Friday May 8th
Tel: 5581 2070

Casterton New Cemetery Mapping Project
 Held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday from 10 – 12 noon. Currently we are working through the Catholic Section with headstone inscriptions and mapping the grave sites.

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The name Jelbart does not conjure up much enquiry if spoken around the Casterton District today, yet some 130 years ago the people who answered to it were in demand for the services they could supply.

It all started in Bunyar, Cornwall, in 1814 when Joseph Jelbart was born. He married a girl who was born in the Scilly Isles and then came to Australia around 1870.

With his brother, Thomas, he set up a blacksmithing shop in the settlement of Carapook. 8 miles east of Casterton, before moving to Chewynd where they built and operated another blacksmithing business, these ventures occurring around the 1870s.

Further moves were made to Merino and Horsham, still exercising their trade as blacksmiths, before the younger members of the Jelbart family moved to Ballarat where at Dana Street they started making stationery engines and tractors in the early 1900s.

Their engines were of the two stroke principle and in 1909 they applied and were granted a patent applicable to what was known as the **Airscavenger** engine. Rather than bore you with precise mechanical data, sufficient to say that the two-stroke engine is just that, induction and power, as against the Otto principle which is of four-stroke design.

The Jelbart patent was based around the actual design of the piston which used a "skirt" to assist operation. The early types of tractors were virtually only stationery engines in a chassis, and attached to a transmission and wheels.

The Jelbart tractor, although much dearer than its competitors, was much in favour owing to its power and economical usage of motor fuel. It started on petrol, warmed up on kero, then ran on crude oil.

It has been said that when a Jelbart tractor was under load its distinctive exhaust note could be heard 10 to 15

miles away.

This I don't doubt as at an engine rally there could be 100 or more engines running yet there be one Jelbart among them its exhaust note was easily identified.

By the 1900s their factory in Ballarat was turning out stationery engines, tractors of various horsepowers, plus road rollers and an array of farm implements and machinery.

By this time a consortium of Jelbarts were in control of the Company, the original Joseph and his wife, Joyce, had died at Carapook in 1901 and 1910 respectively, and are buried the Casterton New Cemetery with two of their children who also died at Carapook in 1898 and 1904.

In a museum at Shepparton there is on display an example of the early Jelbart tractor and as some 1500 stationery engines and 400 tractors were made during the years from 1900 to 1928, they can quite often be seen and heard at display days when hosted by these Clubs.

Lack of attention to the business side of their operation saw the firm of Jelbarts of Ballarat run into severe financial difficulties. They were to be temporarily financially assisted by R S Falkiner, a wealthy wool producer from NSW, but to no avail as more modern types of tractors and engines came on the market.

Apology: errata: the last paragraph of Jim Kent's **April** article should have read:

*Elders **built** their new premises and the old O Gilpin store where I used to buy my saintly little **mother** small gifts.... Oliver Gilpin ranks in my book with the **likes** of Reginald Myles Ansett as a man of vision, before his time. © (Editor's error, typing/reading skills).*





Lunch at the converted Chetwynd church being enjoyed by the group on Sunday.



HISTORY GROUP DAY TRIP TO CHETWYND AND DISTRICT: VERY POPULAR SORTIE

There was great interest in the Sunday April 26th trip to Chetwynd, which has proven to be a most popular event each year.

A total of 18 people turned out for the day, some cancelling due to bad weather, but it is suspected that the prospect of a delicious lunch at the Chetwynd home of Sloba and Iliya, former proprietors of The Volga restaurant in Adelaide, was as always still the huge drawcard for history buffs.

The group was led by Ross Davidson at the Hummocks where the old school and house site was also identified and then via Brimboal and former sites noted there.

A delightful lunch finished with a luscious pear cake with homegrown berry coulis, followed by a brisk *drive* up to the cemetery. Hail, cold and rain finally defeated the group and a hasty retreat was made back for afternoon tea.

Marj Quigley from Harrow Historical Society talked about the district, the log gaol at Harrow and the cricketer, the famous Johnny Mullagh. It was suggested a trip to Harrow should be made at some time, there being a day's outing with plenty to see and do there.

The weather may not have been wonderful but despite it the spirit of the occasion was enthusiastic as always and was much enjoyed by all.

The Chetwynd cemetery and sky darkening.



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
[www.ballaratgenealogy.org/
casterton/historicalsociety](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org/casterton/historicalsociety)

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Jan Lier: Ph. 0432 774314 or janlier@bigpond.net.au or Ros Coventry on 5581 2875 / roscov@iprimus.com.au

Casterton & District
Historical Society Inc.

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