

JUNE 2012

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Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum

Sobriquets

by Jim Kent

Casterton, like most other Australian towns, is notorious for creating nicknames by which various people are saddled. These sobriquets are known and referred to so much so that in a lot of cases their original first name is sometimes hard to bring to mind.

My Bonnie Jean and I were blessed with eleven wonderful children and in the course of events we bestowed upon them, at Baptism, various first names sourced from the ancestors of both Jean and myself. But no, it wasn't long before all of them had nicknames. Cecily became known as *See-Saw*, Barry became *Bazza*, Ellen answered to *Nenny*, Nicole became *Nicco* and so on, right through the eleven of them.

Around the town of Casterton various notable people were lumbered with sometimes hilarious titles such as the late Bill Mapeson, an old coach driver for Jack Cawker. Bill was always called *Sweet Marie* - I believe this came about by him being a loser for the affections of a girl called Marie.

Within my lifetime our town was serviced by four hotels and the barmen who dispensed the golden liquid of enjoyment. Starting at the Western end of Henty Street was the Railway Hotel, and should you seek the solace of liquor within you would be served by a barman called *Tosca*, so named after that great singer Toscanini. This barman earned this title because of his constant singing in very melodious voice the current hit songs. His correct name was Tom Whitfield.

On the opposite corner to the Railway Hotel stood the Casterton Hotel, a very popular watering hole. At this establishment, in total command of the bar, was genial big bloke known to all as *Knocker Clarke*. Don't ask me his Christian name because I don't know but I did know his pretty daughter, Carmel, as I went to school with her. I believe he

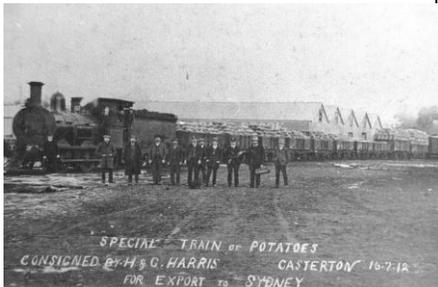
NEXT MEETING

AGM - to be held on the third Wednesday in August - is our next scheduled meeting. Further details will be posted in July.

KENTS CORNER BOOK - CONTINUING SUCCESS

Due to the great interest in Jim Kent's book all copies sold out fast, including the second printing.

The third printing is NOW available at the Visitor Information Centre, at a cost of \$25.00.



A special potato train in July 1912

Casterton New Cemetery Mapping Project



Casterton Community Museum



Kim Family - Yvonne, Ethel May, James, Gin Meng, Steve, Yvonne, Fee

**The Kim family of Casterton
c 1900**



Railway station complex Casterton

**We're on the Web - visit
us at:**

<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>

Our Address

**PO Box 48, Casterton 3311
Phone: 5581 2070**

Most historical records are
housed at the Casterton Visitor
Information Centre
For e-mail enquiries go to:

castertonhistorical@hotmail.com
download our research
request form and forward.

**Museum visits, requests to
open:**

**contact the Treasurer,
David Coventry, tel 5581 2475
davidccoventry@yahoo.com.au**

To contribute to this
newsletter, please contact Jan
Lier at the Visitor Information
Centre on 5581 2070 or
e-mail at jlir3@activ8.net.au
or contact Ros at
roscov48@bigpond.com

REUNION NEWS: Zes Gesusters - January 2013

A reunion to celebrate 160 years since the arrival of the '**Zes Gesusters**' aka '**Six Sisters**' emigrant ship will be held on **Sunday, 13 January, 2013**, at Geelong, Victoria.

For more information, please contact reunion organizer,
Rob Newland at robjnewland@yahoo.com.au

*A most interesting memorial and expression of thanks
From The Argus (Melbourne)
Friday, 21 January, 1853*

MEMORIAL

To Captain Ruhaak, Commander of the Ship" **Six Sisters**" from London to Geelong, Australia.

We, the undersigned, being emigrants on board the ship of which you are the Captain, beg most respectfully to record our entire approval of your conduct, and also, of the officers and crew under you, towards us during the voyage.

Your general kindness to the emigrants from the youngest to the eldest, (and especially to the children), and your co-operation with the Surgeon Superintendent on all occasions to promote our welfare and happiness, have secured for you our unqualified respect and esteem, and ungrateful should we be were we to leave the ship without shewing some token of our feeling towards you.

We therefore present this with our best wishes for your future and eternal happiness, hoping that when you have done with the storms and tempests of life, an abundant entrance will be ministered unto you into the Eternal City, where all is calm and peace.

Signed and presented by your grateful and obliged servants, this 17th day of January, 1853.

MATHEW ATKINSON, JOHN WEBB, and 139 others.

Archival Access Victoria: Bringing the Victorian Archives to you. History at your fingertips – A few interesting **iPhone Apps** worth mentioning for the tech-savvy researchers out there.

Vic-Heritage App – made for the iPhone, it helps you to explore and learn about the architectural and historical treasures of Melbourne and regional Victoria, providing mobile access access to the Victorian Heritage Database. The app can find heritage listed locations in your general vicinity or you can search for a specific heritage item by name, location, etc. The app includes photos of heritage listed buildings and details of their historical significance.

iTunes U – this app is like a university in your pocket. Subscribe to 'courses' and download podcasts of lectures and interviews from experts in a wide range of fields. You download the podcasts direct to your phone and you can listen and learn while walking the dog or waiting for a train. La Trobe University has an 'Australian History' course in iTunes U. The 20+ topics in this course (completely free) includes topics such as immigration, Aussie slang and the whaling industry. If you don't have an iPhone, you can still access the content created by La Trobe on their podcast webpage.

Casterton Historical Society website:
<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>