

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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James and Margaret Pennycuick's home "Kelvin Grove" in Budgeree



See article page 4-6

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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2022/2023

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Research Queries:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Open - February to November
General meetings:	3rd Wednesday February to November – 2.00 pm
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1st July each year Single Member - \$25.00 Family Membership -Family living at the same address includes children under 18 years old - \$30.00 Application Forms available on our web site for you to print and send. For a print copy of " The Morwell Post " - \$10.00 per annum
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Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
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Front page icon is of the old Post Office c1930 which was on the site of the old Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope everyone had an enjoyable festive season.

We are back in action at Hazelwood Road with our new kitchen project on the go, Open days commencing 1st February and our very dedicated volunteers busily researching, cataloguing and those other jobs necessary for the society to function.

In addition to the many items donated to us, we were fortunate to be offered a board table and eight chairs from the Morwell Bowling Club. The MBC has been very supportive of us, you may recall the carpet they donated last year.

As predicted, our debt on our building was reduced to \$60,000 in December. A great effort by members, wonderful generosity of a local community and support from ENGIE.

We have 2 years to secure the remaining \$60,000!

Members participated in the Rotary family fun day in December, a Bunnings BBQ on the hottest day in January and another BBQ due at the end of February.

Two of our members, Peter Butcher our Treasurer and John Willis have both in recent months has serious health issues. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Thanks to everyone for their contribution.

I look forward to catching up at our AGM on 15th March.

Best wishes

Alan McFarlane

Stage 1 in progress of the kitchen renovations



Chris and Orlando hard at work

JAMES PENNYCUICK 1856-1939

Manuscript Memoir by James Pennycuick- July 1932

Newsletter May 1992 p5

I, James Pennycuick of Motherwell in Scotland and Maggie Burnside of Overtown in Scotland were married on the 4th June 1878 and we took over the business at Overtown from Mrs Burnside, my mother in law, and we stayed there about 5 years. Because of my brother in law, Arch Burnside's health, it was agreed that he should go to New Zealand.

My wife and family were left in charge of the business while I was away. We left by train from Motherwell to London and sailed from Tilbury Docks on the *SS Iberia*, myself, Arch Burnside and Uncle Robert Miller. First Port of call was Plymouth, then Naples in Italy, and then Port Said in Egypt, through the Suez Canal, called at Aden then right through without a stop to Albany in Australia, then Adelaide, then Melbourne where we changed into the *SS Manapouri*. First call was the Bluff in New Zealand from there to Port Chalmers where we landed and took a train to Dunedin where we stayed there a week or two and bought a little farm at Blueskin on the main road to Waitati. This Blueskin is 5 miles from Port Chalmers and 10 miles from Dunedin. I stayed there a few weeks after settling down Arch Burnside and Robert Miller my mission being completed.

I left there for Scotland and sailed from Port Chalmers in the *Ringarooma* from Littleton where I spent a week waiting for the *SS Doric* in which I sail from that port to London via Cape Horn and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, called at the Island of St Vincent in the Caribbean then straight to London. Took the train from Euston Station to Law Junction in Scotland where Mrs Pennycuick met me there and drove me home to Overtown. I was away altogether 5-6 months.

After being home some weeks Mrs Burnside, my mother in law, decided to go to New Zealand to join her son Arch Burnside and Robert Miller her brother. I accompanied her to London and saw her off on the *British Queen*. She went alone and arrived safely and was met at Port Chambers.

After being at Overtown for 2 years during which time I was a Factor for Mrs Burnside and collected the rents of her property. While in business there I was also in the employ of Thos Barr a commercial traveller. We decided that we would all go to Western Australia and take up land there. My brother in law James Young of Hamilton took over the business. The party who sailed for Australia was myself, Mrs Pennycuick, my brother Thos Pennycuick, my son Thos Pennycuick and my daughters Isabella and Janet and William Miller.

We sailed from Greenock in Scotland on the *SS Mararva* and first call was St Vincent in the Canary Islands, there to the Cape of Good Hope. As we had a mishap to our machinery had to stay at the Cape for a week to effect repairs then from there to Albany in Western Australia, from there to Hobart in Tasmania, called at Bluff in New Zealand and from there to Port Chalmers. When we landed we were met there by Arch Burnside and taken to Blueskin. I had to hire a wagonette to take some of us and we met Mrs Burnside and Robert Miller there, after staying there sometime and along with Thos Pennycuick, my brother and William Miller left Port Chalmers on the *SS Oruba?* leaving Mrs Pennycuick, Arch Burnside and Robert Miller called at Hobart and came on to Melbourne in the *Waibora*. From Melbourne went to Uncle Burnside's at Raplock Farms and stayed there a short time. I, along with Thos Pennycuick and Mr Miller went to W Frankston to look for work but did not succeed. Back to Uncle Burnside's again. Got a job with John Duncan at Cheerim, left my brother there until we finished at Cheerim.

Went with Uncle Burnside and Miller to Land Board at Traralgon. After getting land at Budgeree recommended Miller and I went to Yinnar and stayed there some time living in a hut belonging to Wicks and leased a paddock from him, about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from township. Did some work on same, got it changed for paddock behind Yinnar railway station next to Firmins.

After that I went to New Zealand and brought over Mrs Pennycuick and family and brought them all to Yinnar. We all lived in the hut till I built the house in Yinnar on the 2 blocks of land I bought from Wicks sometime before 1880. Bought the farm across the Morwell River shortly after and let the house to Thos Walsh of Yinnar and went to live on the farm. In the meantime Arch Burnside and Mrs Burnside came over from New Zealand and we all lived together for some time. While living in the township and along with Miller and my brother went back and forwards to Budgeree and did some work there, Miller went to ? South and stayed there for some years. While I was living on the farm I was appointed Director of the Butter Factory and the manager for two seasons. I resigned and we all decided to go to Scotland leaving Arch Burnside and Mrs Burnside behind on the farm which we tried to sell.

The party left Yinnar for Scotland and sailed on the Oceana, myself, Mrs Pennycuick, T Pennycuick, my brother, my family consisting of Isabella, Tom, Jen, Maggie, Willie and Winnie. From Melbourne we called into Adelaide, Albany, Colombo, Port Said, Brindisi in Malta and landed at Plymouth. Took train right through to Motherwell and took up the business from my mother a week after arrival, stayed there for 6 months, sold out and my mother went to Dudley Cottage Hamilton. Leaving my brother behind in Scotland we all sailed for Australia again in the Oruba in 1894. From London, calling at Plymouth, Naples, Port Said, Albany, Adelaide and Melbourne, went straight to the farm in Yinnar, took the store at Yinnar from J Walsh and was there in business for 11 ¼ years. Went from Yinnar to Budgeree on to 160 acres I bought from Hallours. Was there for 25 years. My son Willie went to the war in 1915 and was killed in Pozieres on 25 July 1916. Minnie and I managed the farm while Jim was away the 2 years.

While in the store I was Director of the Butter factory for a second time and secretary for 3 years and finally Liquidator when it was sold. I also sold my house in Yinnar to Mrs Donaldson of Morwell and my block next to it to J Walsh, Yinnar and my 2 blocks below the hotel to John Moore who took over my store from me when I went to Budgeree. I sold the place that I bought in 1906 up the river to M Walsh, Yinnar. I handed over my farm, "Kelvin Grove" to my son Jim and Mrs Pennycuick and I came to live with my daughter at Bannockburn who is married to RJ Elliot. Mrs Pennycuick died here on 10 October 1931 and I am still living here alone on the 30 July 1936. I still retain the 277 acreage Freehold Land at Budgeree which I selected over 36 years ago.

MR J. PENNYCUICK (Sen.) CROSSES THE BAR.

A former popular and most highly respected resident of Yinnar and Budgeree in the person of Mr James Pennycuick Snr., passed away on Tuesday last, in St. Martin's Hospital, Caulfield. Deceased who had reached the ripe old age of 83 years, was born in Scotland, but came to Australia when quite a young man. About 50 years ago he settled in Yinnar, where for many years he played an important part in the affairs of the district. For many years he carried on business as general store-keeper and newsagent. He also took an active part in the founding of the old Yinnar Co-operative Butter factory, of which he was Manager. There was scarcely a movement for the advancement of the district that he was not one of the live wires, and as a store-keeper he "stood to" many of the early settlers and helped them to make good. He subsequently disposed of his business at Yinnar and returned to Motherwell, Scotland, where he conducted the "Motherwell Inn" for a short period. His heart was, however, in Australia and he came back to Yinnar and settled on his farm "Kelvin Grove," in Budgeree, where he remained until a few years ago, when he went to reside at Bannockburn, near Ballarat, his farm being carried on by one of his sons. About six months ago his health failed and he went to the seaside resort of Elwood, where he passed away as stated. Deceased leaves one son (Thomas, of Elwood) and three married daughters to mourn their loss. The remains of deceased were brought to Morwell and interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery yesterday.



Pennycuick and Burnside headstones in Hazelwood Cemetery

Margaret and James are buried with Margaret's brother Archie Burnside in the Hazelwood Cemetery. Their son James is also buried in the Hazelwood Cemetery. Archie Burnside was a Morwell Shire councillor in 1908 and he has a street named after him in Morwell - Burnside Drive.

Jim and Margaret Pennycuick c1900



BUDGEREE SOUTH EAST SCHOOL NO 3504

In 1905 Jim Pennycuick applied to the Education Department for a school in Budgerie offering the Department a 14 feet x 11 feet room in his house. The Department accepted and the school opened with Mary Hussey the teacher.

In August 1908 the number of children reached 19 the room was overcrowded so the school opened in a nearby wooden building which the Department leased from Pennycuick. Unfortunately this building was destroyed by fire in 1908.

Jim Pennycuick built another building which was leased by the Education Department and it opened in 1909.



Budgerie South East School c1934 The school closed in 1954

SCHOOLS IN THE BUDGEREE AREA

The Budgerie School no. 2864, opened in October 1888 and closed December 1992

The Budgerie East School no. 2856, opened 1888 and closed 1896

The Budgerie South East School no. 3504, opened 1905 and closed 1954

Source - *Vision and Realisation* Vol 3 pp 1293, 1246, 1248

Budgerie South East School photo MHS 20257

SNAKE STORIES

SNAKES

Snakes appear to be both numerous and large this season and a black reptile of exceptional dimensions was captured alive by Mr Chas Davey on Sunday last. The serpent was observed to run into a hollow log by one of Mr Davey's boys. The hole was promptly blocked up and during the afternoon the reptile, which measured over 6 foot in length, was transferred from the log into a bag without injury and brought into the town alive.

Subsequently it was placed into a glass case in Mr Brown's (chemist) window where it has been quite an attraction. It has been fed with milk, frogs, etc and appears to be holding its "condition" all right. It is understood that it has been offered to the Melbourne Zoological Society who should be glad to get such a fine specimen of the dreaded 'tile.

Source -~~Morwell Advertiser~~ Friday 29 September 1911 p 2

CASE OF SNAKE BITE

On Saturday afternoon last Mr E. C. Francis was bitten on the palm (just below the thumb joint) of left hand by a snake and it was about half an hour before he was aware of the fact. He, in company of his two brothers was picking up and burning some timber in their paddock, near Yinnar, and whilst carrying the end of a log to place on a burning heap he felt something bite his hand for several seconds and thought it was a bull-ant.

After throwing the log on the fire, he looked at his hand which was black with charcoal, but saw no blood or marks on it. He continued to work on for about half an hour, during which time, he felt at short intervals hot and then cold, which he attributed to the fire by which he was working; later on he had a very disagreeable feeling about the chest, his eyes appeared to swell, his head ached and he got giddy.

He then remarked to his brothers that he believed that he had been bitten by a snake and not a bull-ant. His brothers at once saw that there was something wrong with him and immediately put ligatures round the arm. They were about to scarify the bitten part, when to their dismay, it was discovered that not one of the three men had a knife with them. The only instrument at hand was an axe and that was blunt; one of the brothers however, proceeded with difficulty to scarify the part with it, whilst the other ran for a razor.

By this time "Bert", who had taken things the coolest of the three, was in a very dazed state and could scarcely stand. When the effected part was cut with the axe, blood would not flow, but by hard sucking clots of blood came away, and when the wounds were made deeper by the application of a razor blood began came more freely, the patient soon after felt much better.

Dr Smith was wired for, and upon his arrival he injected strychnine and we are pleased to state that the patient is now completely out of danger, although it will be some time before he will be able to use his hand.

Source ~~Morwell Advertiser~~ Fri 11 April 1902 p 3

LARGE BLACK SNAKE

Mr Mc Cory recounts... In company with Mr Salter of Bairnsdale he was driving from Orbost to Cann River in 1915 when they came across this big snake in the paddock of short English grass and in the morning sun it was a beautiful sight. As he wanted the skin he approached the snake very quietly, and got it with a blow on the head. It was red underneath; the back was a brilliant black.

He took it along to the Cann River Hotel, then just a few days opened, and in the presence of the landlord and Mr Salter it was carefully measured as it lay along the horse rail in front of the hotel. The length was 10 feet and the girth, at the middle, was 10 inches. The length was marked with the axe on the rail and Mr Mc Cory remarked to the landlord "If anyone kills a bigger snake than that you may shout them a bottle at my expense". Thus far there has been no claim.

Mr Mc Cory says that he went to some trouble to skin this snake. He rolled the skin in coarse salt and took it back to Orbost where he cured or tanned it with a mixture of whiting and alum applied while the skin was stretched on a board. Afterwards it was washed in soft soap and then given a dressing of Vaseline when it became as soft as a glove and lost none of its colour. He carried the cured skin in his bag for years, and often when there was a discussion on the length of snakes, and his statement as to black snakes being 10 foot long and was ridiculed, he had much enjoyment in producing the proof.

He afterwards sent the skin to his brother in Ireland, who, of course, had never seen a snake, and on receiving it wrote "What a hideous monster it must have been! I would advise you not to get too close to those reptiles, as I believe they are poisonous".

Source - ~~Morwell~~ *Advertiser* Fri 20 November 1925 p 4

TWO CASES OF SNAKE-BITE

Whilst fishing along Billy's Creek, on Sunday last, Mr Robt. McKenzie, of North Hazelwood, had a somewhat startling experience with a snake. Jumping down the bank of the creek Mac. landed on top of a large reptile which commenced to wriggle around his legs. Mac. has danced many a good reel in his time, but he never danced before like he did when he landed on the snake. He did reels, two steps, cake walks, "serpentine," and various other terpsicorian movements without a strain of music, but when Mac. felt a sudden sharp sting through his boot, he stopped dancing and found the snake had disappeared.

He called to his son who was fishing up the creek, and with a knife set to work on his foot to draw blood. As Cashman's house was close by, Mac. hastened thither in the hope of being supplied with a drop of Scotch or Irish; he wasn't particular which, and strange to say he no sooner reached Cashman's than Dr Sutcliffe arrived at the same place.

It also so happened that the doctor had with him an outfit to treat snake bite, and he administered an antidote and was soon able to assure Mac. that he need have no further fear. Mac. is now satisfied that if he was bitten by a snake it could not have happened under more favourable circumstances.

Another case of snakebite happened in the back blocks of Budgeree, near Christies on Monday last, when a young man named Fisher was bitten whilst engaged in eating grass seed.

The day was warm and although Mr Fisher did not see any snake, he felt a sharp sting on the leg and realised he had been bitten and on examining his leg had no doubt about the matter, for the punctures could be plainly seen. He scarified the part and tied a ligature around his leg and shortly after set out for Morwell a distance of over twenty miles, to obtain medical treatment. It was after midnight when he arrived at Dr Sutcliffe's residence, and he was then feeling somewhat queer. The doctor soon got to work, and it was not long before he was able to inform Mr Fisher that he was out of danger, but at the same time he advised him to remain in the town for some hours in case further treatment was found necessary. Mr Fisher was, however, able to return home during the day, little the worse for his unpleasant experience.

Source - ~~Morwell~~ *Advertiser* Fri 9 Jan 1914 p 2

MILKING TIME

John Quigley and Bridget Maher married in 1868 in Ballarat. They had 6 children before moving to Gippsland - Mary was born at Lethbridge in 1869, James was born at Lethbridge in 1870 and 4 children born at Steiglitz - Ellen born in 1872, Anne born in 1873, John born in 1874 and Joseph born in 1876.

John and Bridget travelled to Morwell 1877 with their 6 young children in their bullock dray and a herd of cows which they milked as they travelled. When they reached the Haunted Hills, Bridget put the children to bed in the dray and sat up, candle in her hand, all night, on guard.

John established the first business in Morwell – a store and a public house. He then went to Yinnar and selected land at Scrubby Forest and opened a store and a wine shop in Yinnar in 1885.

They had 5 more children –Sarah born in Morwell in 1878 and 4 children born at Hazelwood - Patrick in 1881, Thomas in 1882, Bridget Delia in 1884 and Andrew in 1886.



This photo was taken about 1889 and the Quigley children are getting ready to milk their cows on their farm in Yinnar. Note the horns on the cows and the ladies long dresses.

Left –Right: Delia, Patrick, Mary, John Maher (mother’s brother), Sarah, Ann and Thomas.
Seated: Andy

Source –*A Souvenir History of Morwell* Ivan Maddern and the Society’s archives.

THE DRAUGHT HORSE

The draught horse is a large horse that is bred to be a working animal doing hard tasks such as hauling heavy loads, ploughing, hay making and other farm labour. There are a number of breeds, with varying characteristics but they all share common traits of strength, patience, well-muscled and a docile temperament. The Clydesdale from Scotland, the Percheron from France, the Shire and the Suffolk Punch from England were the most popular breeds brought to Australia with the early settlers.

Building the railway line to Yallourn 1921

Four draught horses pulling a plough and a horse drawn cart is being loaded.



The horse parades down Commercial Road started in 1884 and were organised and conducted by John Rintoull who spent the morning of the parade collecting subscriptions for prizes. The parade, which started at 12 o'clock sharp from Hall's corner to Smythe's (the corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street) the highlight of the year and the horses, sometimes up to 20 were walked up and down Commercial Road. At twenty minutes past twelve the horses were lined up in the middle of the street and judging would take place. Prizes were awarded for each class for the best groomed horses. Sometimes after the parade a horse sale would be held. The horse parade lasted till the 1920s.

Horses in harness were also used to turn a system of gears and shafts to operate a tool, maybe a cross cut saw for cutting logs, chaff cutters or flour mills. The horse walks in a circle harnessed to a bar that turns the machinery. Horses were changed every two hours. Percherons and Clydesdales because they are biggest and strongest of draught horses and generally have a calm disposition make them ideal to work in horse works. Whereas lighter horses are faster and more nimble horses were used to pull coaches and drays. In 1946, with the manufacture of the Ferguson TE20, better known as the little grey Fergie, the horse and manual labour was replaced.

Bill Cook and his team of 4 draught horses are shifting an old office from the railway side of Commercial road out to Morwell North in 1941
In the background Bank of Australia.



Source - ~~Morwell Advertiser~~ 16 September 1898. p 3



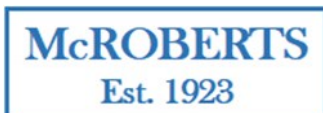
OPEN DAYS 2023

1st February || 15th February || 26th February
1st March || 15th March; AGM || 26th March
5th April || 19th April || 30th April
3rd May || 17th May || 28th May
7th June || 21st June || 25th June
5th July || 19th July || 31st July
2nd August || 16th August || 27th August
6th September || 20th September || 24th September
4th October || 18 October || 29th October
1st November || 15th November || 26th November

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