

## A Troublesome Ghost

Our Moama correspondent, writing yesterday, sends us the following anent "The Moama Ghost;" "The Ghost seems to be the all-abounding topic just now at Moama. The war news is nothing to it. "Have you heard the news of no less than thirty persons having seen the ghost?" inquires another. So that people begin to think at last there must be "something in it", and from the information to hand, and from what I have heard from the lips of the parties who say they have seen the ghost, I glean the following which may interest your readers :- About ten miles from Moama, on the east side of the line, stands a dummy house. This house has been occupied by a party of dam-sinkers and bark-ringers. These men aver that about a fortnight ago they were disturbed by knocking on the tin roof, and that upon getting up they saw the figure of a woman, when one among them put the question, "What do you wand Missus?" to which the figure replied that she had been murdered near that spot, and that the bones of herself and infant would be found towards the end of the hut, where they were placed fourteen years ago by Morgan the bushranger One of the party, who possessed a whip made a strike at the figure, which did not move. The following day the news spread, and the

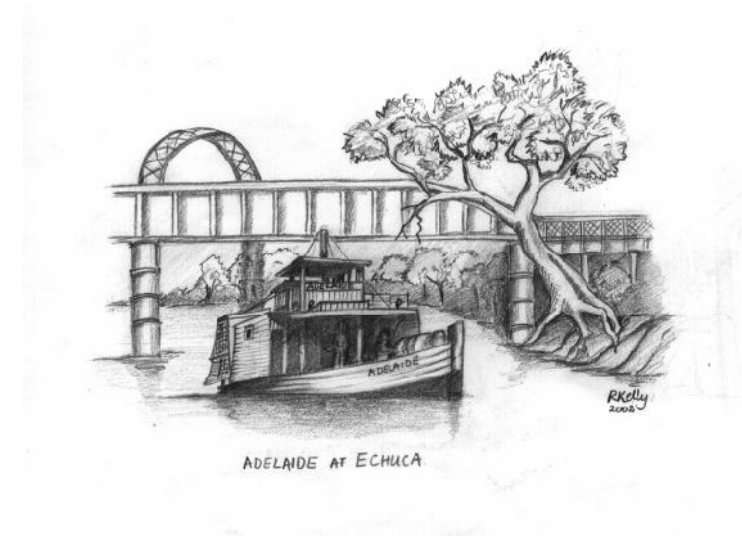
next night a large party assembled when the apparition again made its appearance, and the whole of these persons swear most distinctly that they saw the figure of a woman, nothing can induce them to think otherwise. Last night a detachment of the Moama Police, under the command of Sergeant Vaughan, went out to see if there was anything to be seen, and there is no doubt if any person had been "playing larks" he would have received a little cold lead. Upon the return of one of the police this morning I ascertained that while in the house last night a terrific noise was made on the roof like the sound of a heavy hammer, where-upon the party rushed out of the house, but could see nothing. The noise was repeated several times and many of the party, amongst whom were men supposed to be possessed of courage, seemed very glad on the approach of the grey dawn. The mystery, however, remains the same, and another party is to be organized, who, together with police, intend to go out again to try and clear up the mystery. The men who were living in the hut have left it to the ghost and camped near a dam. It seems remarkable that thirty men should become alarmed, and positively aver that there is something in it  
*Riverine Herald 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1878*

### Moama Cemetery

A total of 650 plaques bearing the names of people who are buried in unknown unmarked graves at the cemetery, are now in place on the plinths at the cemetery. Besides these a number of plaques have been placed around the cemetery when the site of a grave is known, but has been unmarked.

# Bridges & Branches

Number 136 December 2024



Quarterly Newsletter  
of the  
ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY  
GROUP INC.

## Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc

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**The Monthly Group Meeting** is held at the Old Telegraph Station, 60 Chanter Street in Moama on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at 1.30pm. **The Monthly Group Activity Session** is held from October to March, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm, and April to September on the third Saturday at 1.30 pm. Venue Christ Church Anglican Echuca.

Excursions can replace the Group Activity Sessions.

The **Research Room** in the Old Telegraph Station, 60 Chanter Street in Moama is open and manned every Monday and Friday between 11.00am -3.00pm, except on Public Holidays

At other times contact Janice 0404 872 524

## Towns /areas covered by the EMFHG Inc

**In Victoria:** Ballendella, Bamawm, Barmah, Echuca, Echuca Village, Kanyapella, Kotta, Koyuga, Lockington, McEvoy's, Millewa, Nanneella, Patho, Piavella, Pine Grove, Restdown, Rochester, Roslynmede, Strathallan, Tennyson, Tongala, Torrumbarry and Wyuna

**In NSW** Bunnaloo, Caldwell, Mathoura, Moama, Thyra and Womboota

The Editors welcome articles, notes, queries, book reviews, comments and any items of interest. Contributions to Bridges & Branches are accepted in good faith but the Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc. or the Editors, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-  
ksdurrant1@bigpond.com or judysupercool@gmail.com

who stated that he had never heard of any person being missed from the locality. A man named Frederick Masters, a fisherman residing on the Murray, about 26 miles from Echuca, informed the constable that about a year and nine or ten months ago, there came to his house a Chinaman, to whom he supplied food, and about five weeks after, the same man returned, and enquired the road to the Gunbower Station; he was then in a miserable condition, the clothes he had on were all in rags, and he told Masters that he had been living on opossums since he was there on a former occasion. He also stated that he was very sick, and would not live long. He was about forty years of age, 5 feet high; wore an old pair of brown tweed trousers, patched

with mole skin, dark coat, brown felt hat, and a pair of blucher boots. The constable is of the opinion that the remains found are those of the man above described, as the boots and hat answer the description of those worn by him when last seen; also the skeleton is that of a very small person. The locality in the winter season is mostly in a flood state, and very difficult to travel over, also the road is very difficult to find, as there is little or no traffic on it. The Coroner, we understand, will report the matter to the Attorney-General, for further instructions as to holding an enquiry on the bones found.

*Riverine Herald* 28<sup>th</sup> November 1874

(It is not known if an enquiry was held.)

## Deaths by Drowning

On Sunday last, at Torrumbarry, an inquest was held by Dr. Gummow touching the death of two boys, aged respectively six and nine years, sons of a man named Arnold. It appears that the boys, the body of one of whom only is recovered, were bathing in the Murray, at a point distant fourteen miles from Echuca, on Saturday, and so got drowned. The evidence necessitated a verdict of accidental drowned, but the foreman took occasion to point out at some length the inability of the present police force to perform the duty of the station. The remarks of the foreman were, of course, more particularly directed to the necessity for immediate steps being taken to recover bodies of persons drowned in the Murray, even though the distance from Echuca, as in this case, should be considerable.

*Riverine Herald*, 15<sup>th</sup> April 1874

Magisterial Enquiry - Mr. Maunsell held a magisterial enquiry at Perricoota on the 4th instant, as to the cause of the sudden death of James Arnold, aged five years. It appeared that the deceased was one of the two children of Henry Arnold, who accidentally drowned in the Murray about a fortnight ago. Owing to the disfigured state of the body, the father could not identify its personal appearance, but from the clothes identified it as his son, "accidentally drowned" in the Murray on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April last.

*Riverine Herald* 6<sup>th</sup> May 1874

*Riverine Herald* 21<sup>th</sup> November 1874

Four days later the story was again making news.

Referring to the skeleton which was found a few days since on the Gunbower Station, a correspondent of the *Bendigo Advertiser* (Mr. D. Mackey) states that he has no doubt that the remains are those of a man named Kewley, "who disappeared while in charge of a mob of cattle, about nineteen years ago, and whose fate, was never ascertained, although the late Mr. L. Macpherson, of Sandhurst, offered a reward for him, dead or alive" A correspondent of the *Ballarat Star* also refers to the remains as those found on the run, about nineteen years ago, and both correspondents have come to the conclusion that the man was murdered. We regret to have to upset such a sensationally erected tale of mysterious murder; but from the inquiries which have been made by the police here, within the past week, it seems that the skeleton is not the skeleton of the man recognized by either of the two correspondents we have mentioned. The man who brought the information to Sergeant Hayes, reported that the bones he found were, at least, four miles from the river, on the bank of which the *Star* correspondent states, the body he refers to was buried, and it is not portion of the country subject to floods; that from the scattered position of the bones, it is scarcely feasible to suppose the body was ever buried, and as the man found a felt hat, a pair of boots, and a pannikin, lying close by, the whole appearance

and position of the remains would necessarily lead one to believe that they were those of some man who had perished within the last year or two. For the last week, one of the constables, accompanier by the man who first reported the discovery - a man named Bird - has been searching for the remains, but without the latter being able to re-discover them.

*Riverine Herald* 25<sup>th</sup> November 1874

The Skeleton Found on the Gunbower Station.

After considerable search, the police have at last been able to ascertain the fullest particulars connected with the discover of the skeleton on the Gunbower run, to which we referred a few days since. Mounted-constable Freeman, who has returned to Echuca, has reported that on the 25th instant, he accompanied the man Reid, who first informed the police of the finding of the skeleton, to Deep Creek, about six miles from the home station, and on a high bank he found the skeleton, which must have been there for a considerable time, as the bones were scattered about, and the only articles of wearing apparel found were the rim of an old brown felt hat and a pair of blucher boots, of a small size, which fell to pieces on being taken up. The constable searched about for any article that might lead to the identification of the bones, but the only things he found were a piece of comb, a tin box, containing lucifers, and an old pocket-knife, which fell to pieces.

The constable saw Mr. Munro, the manager of the Gunbower Station,

The end of 2024 is fast approaching and I hope you have had a rewarding year researching your family history. Our group has continued to provide excellent resources for those members of the community who are pursuing their origins through researching their family history. We have also continued with our monthly activities whether be interesting speakers, or excursions to historic places in the district or further afield.

**Updates:** Our flood grant money spending has been completed and the loan to the Murray River Council has been acquitted. Most of you will be aware of what has been purchased after our losses in the 2022 floods. Just to remind you we have new filing cabinets, heaters, carpet rugs and floor mats, an air conditioner and a bookcase.

The scanning of our card files into a PDF format continues, but there are many copies on different computers in the research room. The next step to reorganise the cards is to combine all copies and then delete the duplicates. This will take some time, so Anita will be calling for volunteers to help with this task in January or February. Please keep this in mind.

The research library reorganization is in its final checking stage with books located accurately on the shelves, and correct lists that contain all the books in our collection. Lorraine and Catherine have been working on this almost every week for months and months. A mammoth effort reflecting perseverance and dedication.

Bunnings has continued to provide us with the opportunity to accumulate resources to purchase equipment, and other necessary requirements for our rooms. We do need more volunteers to assist us. We have seven members who

always volunteer, and most are there for at least 4 hours, and some do 8½ hours. If four more members could volunteer, we could cut those hours down to a reasonable time, such as 2 to 2½ hours. If hours. It is a long time to be standing. More volunteers please! It is a great opportunity to spend time with your family history friends.

Our move to Christ Church Echuca's meeting room for our activities has been excellent. We are going to sign another agreement for 2025, so I encourage all members to take advantage of coming to hear our excellent speakers. This year has been an entertaining one with topics that would interest most people. The last speaker was Reverend Phil Zamagias from Christ Church Echuca, who talked about his very interesting life before he became a minister. Our members were so impressed.

We also had our mid -winter lunch in July at the church and our Christmas break up in November. It was disappointing that the numbers were low particularly at the Christmas party. Christmas trimmings were everywhere, and we played Christmas trivia games organized by our quizzier, Anita with prizes. It was a very enjoyable night, with lots of laughter and delicious food. We will have a number of interesting speakers next year, so I encourage those who have not been for a while to come along, and not only be entertained, but find out interesting information about the other people's lives. Helen Hastie spends some time finding these speakers and organising their visits for us.

Our last excursion this year was to visit Terrick-Terrick South township site, East Loddon Historical Society in Mitiamo, Prairie Park Estate and Mitiamo Cemetery. It was a very enjoyable and

interesting day. We car pooled which is always fun. Helen had arranged an observation game on the trip there with a list of 12 questions to be answered. It required some eagle-eyed passengers to sight the answers particularly the endangered bird!! The site of the old Terrick- Terrick South Township was our first stop, and while there were only a few signs and plaques. John Howe enhanced the experience with some very interesting information about the old town. Terrick-Terrick township, was used as a stopover by the drivers of bullock and horse wagons, on route to and from the Murray River at Echuca. The district was settled c1873 and the township consisted of a hotel, three stores, a bank, a police station, a church and a stockyard. The town grew because selectors took up blocks in the area under the 1869 Land Act. The area is now a state park with grasslands, plants and trees native to the area. One particular bird is the plains wanderer which is an endangered species and there is native fauna too.

The East Loddon Historical Society’s Museum was fascinating and reflected the history of local life in the district. It is certainly worth a visit. We were provided a hearty lunch and then made our way to Prairie Park, one of the oldest homesteads in the district, (circa 1874) and were shown through the old house, and other smaller buildings by Fay Forbes. This visit was arranged because the owner, John Forbes Who at the museum. It was certainly the highlight of the day with afternoon tea, a tour of the house and an insight not only into its past history, but the trials of maintaining such a building. It had also been subjected to the 2022 floods. Of course, we finished our visit to the area by dropping into the Mitiamo cemetery for a visit on the way home. These excursions are the high light of the year and we are extremely grateful to Helen Hastie for organizing them.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. May you enjoy the festive season.**

*Judy McCleary*

### Coming Events

#### FEBRUARY

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday 11th @ 1.30 pm  | Committee Meeting |
| Thursday 20th @ 7.30 pm | Guest Speaker     |

#### MARCH

|                         |                                                               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 11th @ 1.30 pm  | Committee Meeting                                             |
| Thursday 20th @ 7.30 pm | Anita Bartlett, The Other Ukraine –The Country and its People |

#### APRIL

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday 8th @ 1.30 pm | Committee Meeting |
| Saturday 17th @       | Easter no meeting |

#### MAY

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tuesday 13th @ 1.30 pm | Committee Meeting         |
| Saturday 17th @        | Excursion Numurkah Museum |

#### JUNE

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday 10th @ 1.30 pm  | Committee Meeting |
| Saturday 21st @ 1.30 pm | Guest Speaker     |

### A Skeleton Found on the Gunbower Station.

Found Dead in the Bush, - It was reported to the Coroner yesterday, that the remains of a human being were discovered on the Gunbower station on Saturday last. The bones were scattered in various directions, a tin pannican was also found; the bones were clean and bleached. They were found near a creek in a unfrequented place, and supposed to have been laying there for one or two years. A mounted constable went yesterday with the finder to the spot, for the purpose of removing the remains. *Riverine Herald 18<sup>th</sup> November 1874* So started the saga of the skeleton at Gunbower Station. The story was taken up by both the *Bendigo Advertiser* and the *Ballarat Star*

In reference to the skeleton found at Gunbower, in the Echuca district, Mr D. Mackay writes to the *Bendigo Advertiser* to say that he believes the remains to be those of an old resident of Sandhurst. Mr Mackay is of opinion that the remains therein stated to have been found in the Murray, near Gunbower station were those of Mr Kewly, a gentleman connected many years ago with the firm of L. Macpherson and Co., and well known in Sandhurst, who suddenly disappeared while in charge of a mob of cattle on the Campaspe, some nineteen years since. The mysterious disappearance of Mr Kewly was never accounted for. A similarity in the dress which he usually wore to that found on the deceased, gives some color to the supposition that the body may have been that of this long-missing gentleman.

*Ballarat Star 21<sup>st</sup> November 1874*

Unfortunately the edition of the *Bendigo Advertiser* for the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1874,

in which the story of the skeleton must have appeared is missing on Trove. The *Riverine Herald* then takes over the story. The Discovery of the Skeleton on the Gunbower Station Regarding the discovery of a human skeleton on the Gunbower run, on Saturday last, and which was reported in the *Riverine Herald* of Wednesday, the *Ballarat Star* has been supplied with the following information by a gentleman of Ballarat, who resided in that part of the colony about nineteen years ago:- “At that time two splitters were spending the evening fishing in the Murray, when they saw a body floating amongst the roots of a large tree growing out of the water. They brought the body to the bank, and then went to Gunbower Station, which at the time belonged to Mr Houston, of Melbourne, and reported the discovery to Mr Gardiner, the superintendent in charge. Mr Gardener rode over and looked at the body, and the men, at his request, covered it over with boughs. Mr Gardener next reported the matter to the police at Echuca, who, however, took no trouble to cause an inquiry. Accordingly, after it had lain on the bank for two or three days, Mr Gardener ordered the body to be buried. It is now stated that the body found is that of the man buried. The man when originally found wore a pair of Bedford cord knee breeches and a new Crimean shirt, and seemed to be a well-to-do cattle dealer. The opinion of Mr Gardener and the two splitters was that he had been murdered, for when found the front of the shirt was covered with blood”

leaving, was only to become more frightening. The second invasion by the Turkish army on the beaches of Famagusta would destroy so many families. The people I met in Famagusta were friendly, hard workers and embraced the tourists. The town was an international resort at the time. Following the Turkish invasion of



Cyprus and subsequent evacuation of Famagusta by its Greek-Cypriot residents, the Turkish army surrounded six square kilometres of the Varosha tourist district in barbed wire and since that time until 2020 this resort area became a ghost town, abandoned and decaying, guarded by armed troops. As the residents fled in haste, they left laundry hanging on the lines and half cooked rice on the stove. Fifty years later, Varosha remains a shell of a once vibrant community. In 2020 Turkey's military took down the fencing around this ghost-town resort and reopened the beachfront. Tourists can now take guided tours to see the abandoned buildings; hotels, banks, shops, car dealerships, cafes, bars and local Greek Cypriot homes. The Five Kings Inn and

the flat on the beach are included. **\*The outcome of the war was grim.** An estimated 5,000 people were killed during the invasion and 1,619 were reported missing, but the true toll could be much higher. Thousands of Greek-Cypriots were arrested and held in concentration camps in Cyprus by Turkish soldiers and paramilitaries, operating under the Turkish army. Also, more than 2,000 prisoners of war had been illegally transferred and held in prisons in Turkey. Some of them are still missing today. Hundreds of other Greek Cypriots, both soldiers and civilians (including seniors, women, and children) have disappeared in Turkish-occupied areas and their fate is still unknown. In violation of international law and UN resolutions, Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot regime continue to systematically eradicate the Greek cultural heritage of the occupied areas of Cyprus. Cities and villages have been given Turkish names while archaeological sites, churches, and cemeteries have been desecrated, destroyed, or transformed for other types of use. On 15 November 1983, the occupying regime unilaterally declared the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", an act which was condemned by the international community as legally invalid. \*Source BBC newsmagazine. *Judy McCleary*

Richard Pethybridge's parents Joseph and Ann (Hamlin) were from Devon in England. Joseph aged 26 years and Ann aged 29 years came to Victoria on the *Bombay* in 1852. They then settled in the Malmsbury area of Victoria (near Kyneton). They had a family of 6 children;

1. Susannah b: 1854 in Malmsbury married Alfred Saunders who selected land at Timmering.
2. Samuel Pethybridge b: 1855 in Kyneton and died 14 Mar 1872 aged 16 years at Malmsbury of accidental drowning.
3. William Pethybridge b: 1857 in Taradale (near Castlemaine), married Ellen Saunders sister of Alfred Saunders. He selected Land at Timmering- allotments 34 and 41A 320 acres/ 4 Feb 1884. After this he moved to the Narrogin area in WA to farm with his family. One son Samuel left and moved to NZ
4. Richard Pethybridge b: 1859 in Taradale married Margaret McQueen and he too selected land at Timmering
5. Joseph Pethybridge b: 1861 in Malmsbury also selected land at Timmering – Allotments 75 and 74A 320 acres/ 27 Sept 1883. He died the 29th November 1921 Castlemaine, Victoria.
6. Elizabeth Pethybridge b: 1864 in Malmsbury and died 1864 Malmsbury aged 1 day.

Richard Pethybridge b: 1859 in Taradale married Margaret McQueen born at Gherinhap near Geelong in 1865. Margaret was the daughter of George McQueen and Margaret Fraser. Margaret was a sister of Alexander Fraser, Hugh Fraser and Donald Fraser who were land selectors at Timmering  
Richard Pethybridge selected land at Timmering and obtained grants for these

allotments on the dates given; allotment 16A2/ 100 acres/ 27 Sept 1883; allotment 78 of 212.2.9 acres /8 Feb 1894 and allotment 77 of 212.2.0 acres /25 Sept 1890

There is not a lot of history to be found on Richard and Margaret Pethybridge's life at Timmering, however there are photos which I trust will keep this family's time at Timmering in the history books.

Family of Richard Pethybridge and Margaret McQueen

1. John Thomas Pethybridge born at Rochester 1887; died 15 April 1942 Oxford Oxfordshire in the UK. He married Marion Vickers in 1906 at Timmering Victoria. She was born at Elmore Victoria in 1886 and died 13th April 1985 at Earlwood, Sydney, NSW. There was a family of 4 or 5 children from this marriage including a son, John Thompson (Tommy) Pethybridge, who was born in 1907. He died in 1935 whilst



Margaret (McQueen) and Richard Pethybridge with their two sons John Thompson and Richard

on a flight with Sir Charles Kingsford Smith in Burma. The latter having given valuable service to civil aviation in Australia.

Family of John Pethybridge and Marion Vickers

Concert : We are requested to notify to the ladies and gentlemen who have kindly promised to assist at the concert on Tuesday, for raising funds for planting the State school reserve with trees, that there will be the final rehearsal in the Temperance Hall, on Monday night, at eight o'clock.  
*Riverine Herald* 22 June 1878

1. John Thompson (Tommy) Pethybridge born 26<sup>th</sup> January 1907 in Collingwood Victoria.

2. Horace James Pethybridge born 2nd March 1909 at Tamworth, New South Wales and died 20 October 2001. Longueville, Sydney, NSW

3. Reginald Carl Stewart Pethybridge born 27 March 1912 Moree, NSW; died 11 October 2001 Sutherland, Sutherland Shire, NSW.

4. Dulcie Marion Pethybridge born 26 January 1914 Victoria; died 1 July 2001 Kempsey NSW

4. George Pethybridge

John Thomas Pethybridge (1887) stayed in England after his WW 1 service and he remarried and had another family in England.

Marriage (2) 8 September 1926 Church of St John, New Cleve, Lincolnshire, England; Euphemia (Effie) Elizabeth S Monger; 1905–1993

Family of John Pethybridge and Euphemia (Effie) Monger

1. Thomas Monger Pethybridge born 18 December 1927 at Clacton on Sea, England; died 6 August 2006 at Wynyard, Tasmania, Australia

2. Daphne Joyce Pethybridge born 14 July 1931 at Tendring, England; died 15 October 2003 at Wodonga, Victoria, Australia

3. Phyllis Mary Pethybridge born July 1938 at Poughley Oxfordshire; died 19 Febuary 2017 at Yorkshire England

2. Richard Pethybridge born 1888 Rochester Victoria; died in 1 December 1923 aged 35 years of age in Corowa NSW; Richard Pethybridge died at his farm “Ingalara” Goombargana (Corowa) NSW. He died from intentional poisoning (Melbourne Argus 4

December 1923). He was a farmer.

3. Hamlin Joseph Pethybridge born 1893 in Rochester Victoria; died aged 70 years in 1963 in Ballarat Victoria. He married (1) Emily Florence Grant 1920 in Victoria; born 1884 in Ondi Victoria. She died in 1943 aged 59 years at Corowa NSW and they had 1 daughter. He married (2); Margaret Derham McGregor and they had 3 children.

The Richard Pethybridge's on the Timmering Honour Rolls

John Thomas Pethybridge born Rochester 1887

Richard Pethybridge born Rochester 1888

World War 1 Service

John Thomas Pethybridge; Service No 20594; Place of Birth, Rochester Victoria; joined 3 September 1917; Place of Enlistment, Parkes NSW; Next of Kin; wife; Marion Pethybridge of “Silver Pines” 432 Illawarra Road Marrackville; Occupation a mechanic Light Motor Wireless Section; a Sapper with Engineer Reinforcements Embarked at Sydney on the *HMAT Ulysses* on the 19 December 1917 for Suez

Richard Pethybridge; Service Number - 35081; Place of Birth - Rochester Vic; aged 23 years and 8 months; Occupation a farmer; Place of Enlistment - Melbourne Vic: date 25 November 1916; Next of Kin - (Father) Richard Pethybridge ‘Ingalara’ Balldale via Corowa; embarked Melbourne *A15 Pt Sydney*; FA Reinforcements on the 9 November 1917; Disembarked Suez 12 December 1917 to Australian Training Camp until 30 December 1917

On the 31 December 1917 Embarked *HMAT Maple B8102* to Camp North A

very little food that we rationed, but we did have quite a few drinks including some alcohol. We could not go out on the streets, as the young men of the new liberation army were patrolling with guns, and **martial law had been declared and we could be shot.** We sun baked on the beach to pass the time and tried not to think about what was going to happen, as we had no way of knowing, because the radio had been taken over by the National Guard. We did not know if the members of the previous government had been shot.

#### **OUR JOURNEY- out of Cyprus**

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1974, Turkey launched a combined air and sea invasion of the northern portion of the island of Cyprus following the coup by the Athens-backed Cypriot National Guard against the democratically elected President, Archbishop Makarios III. **It was on this day that the UN soldiers told us to be ready to be taken to the airport to be evacuated to the British Sovereign RAF base at Lanica.** We flew in an army transport plane which has those roped seats you see in the movies. We were safe there where we were processed by customs, and just had to wait for evacuation. We heard that the tourist area of Famagusta had been targeted to be cleared of foreigners first.

**We experienced Traumatic Scenes at the Base** as there were many Greek Cypriot women and children there who wanted to leave, but the Brits were only taking British and Commonwealth passport holders.

**July 21<sup>st</sup> 1974** we were flown back to the UK on a very large plane that had just brought many British Troops. I remember that the seats on the plane were facing the tail of the plane.

**The horror of the invasion was to**

**intensify considerably after we left in August when a second invasion was launched.** Famagusta was bombed then, and the beach that was our sunbaking



haven, was invaded by Turkish troops charging out of amphibious tanks. Only the Greek Cypriots felt the horror of the invading Turkish troops, and the mayhem they unleashed on the unsuspecting people—mostly women, children, and the elderly. For seven days my parents had no idea what was happening, as there was no direct communication with Cyprus, and all they had was the media reports that were grim. A phone call was the first thing I did when I arrived in the UK. I left behind 65 pounds in Barclays bank—my savings for Egypt and some wine in the fridge at the flat. I took with me the horror and the pain suffered by the Greek Cypriots I encountered in those last frantic days.

[I am forever grateful that the British had sovereign bases in Cyprus](#) and we were evacuated to the UK without any cost. We were told that we could be charged but it never eventuated. I would have paid any amount to be flown out of Cyprus, because being stranded in that situation would have been terrifying, and could have been fatal, because the hotel area was bombed later and tourists did die.

The experience, even though it was brief, seeing people's lives uprooted and the terror they were experiencing as we were

union with Greece. This group had been creating unrest with minor explosions around the town and across the countryside targeting Turkish Cypriots. We had seen some political placards on the outskirts of Nicosia. The National Guard installed a new president after the coup and the country was being run by the military.

**Little did we know what history had in store for us when we arrived in back in Limassol Cyprus April 26<sup>th</sup> 1974 from Israel.**



We decided to find work in Famagusta in a district called Varosha that was a very expensive tourist area with many high-rise hotels along Kennedy Avenue, as well as an expensive shopping area, night clubs and exotic beaches. It was the attraction of movie stars including Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and French model Brigitte Bardot. One day on the way home from work I saw Rachel Welch coming out of a hotel. They were attracted to a tourist paradise, and sun kissed beaches.

I managed to get a job as a Barmaid working full time at the Five Kings Inn from May 14<sup>th</sup> on Kennedy Avenue. We had also found a flat in a high rise building B12 125 Kennedy Avenue. The only customers were Greek Cypriot men who thought they were the local Romeos and **most of them were married.** Flashy clothes slick backed hair and always asking for a date. I had

to wear a singlet which was red with black writing on it advertising the bar. It had five kings' heads outlined in white across the chest. I kept it for a number of years to remind me of the chauvinistic attitude to women as show pieces. Some of these Romeos spoke English, but all the music on the juke box was Greek apart from two songs in English. Bye Bye American Pie and Vincent by Don McLean. Every chance I could I would play these songs. The work was boring serving drinks, washing glasses and cleaning up the bar and I think there were some sort of Greek nibbles. On days off we would sunbake on the beach which was in front of our building. We did not travel at all during that time.

**The United Nation Troops were evident in the town and across the country as they were the peacekeepers.**

We did speak to a few of them. They were from Norway. One of them gave me his UN Fez cap. They were located at UN stations throughout the town. They had a major role to play in the troubles ahead.

**On July 15<sup>th</sup> there was a military coup that deposed Makarios and his government led by Greek officers who were members of the National Guard.**

We were now caught up in an international incident and in a very precarious situation.



**Monday July 15<sup>th</sup> 1974 to Friday July 19<sup>th</sup>:** We spent four days in the flat with

Alexandria until 2 January 1918 and then embarked on the *Abbassieh* on the 8 January 1918 for Sarants, 1918 September; admitted to hospital with appendicitis from France to Cheltenham in England Appendectomy 14 September 1918; 2 October 1918 he was reported dangerously ill; 31 October 1918 he was progressing favourably. Following removal of his appendix he was unfit for Active Service discharged to home Service; Later was classified as permanently unfit for Active Service It was in 1910 that Richard Pethybridge sold his Timmering Allotments, as reported on in the Melbourne *Leader* Newspaper and the Bendigo Independent Newspaper. At this time he had 1190 acres.

*Leader* (Melbourne) Sat 12 Mar 1910 Page 39; PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS. Messrs. Spencer, M'Kean and Co., 1190 acres, parish of Timmering, on account of Richard Pethybridge, at £9 per acre, to, M. J. and Thos. Tehan.

PROPERTY SALES; ROCHESTER, The *Bendigo Independent* Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 1910 p 2; CLEARING SALE; Messrs. Alf. E Wallis and Co. report under instructions from Mr. R. Pethybridge, of Timmering, was on Monday held one of largest and possibly the most successful sale held in the district for the year. Draught horses made from £35 to £49/19/-, unbroken horses: £46/10/-; ponies, to £15/15/-; dairy cows, £4/5/- £6: chaff cutting plant £80; 6 stacks hay, seed wheat, machinery, implements, and a large quantity of good furniture all selling remarkably well.

Richard and Margaret Pethybridge and family moved to farm land at Balldale (near Corowa) to a property called 'Ingalaria'. Richard died at Corowa in 1935 aged 76 years, Margaret also died in Corowa in 1949 aged 85 years. They are both buried at the Corowa Pioneer Cemetery.

*Margaret Lacy*

### **.Murray River Council Grant**

Our thanks to the Murray River Council for the Restoration and Replacement of Flood Damaged Equipment Grant which enabled the Family History Group replace the items which were damaged when the Old Telegraph Station was flooded, in October 2022. This has included floor coverings, a heater, cooler, filing cabinets and a book case.

The group is also most grateful for all the work which was done by the Council Staff to restore the building after it was inundated.

Consider the postage stamp; its only usefulness is its ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

*Josh Billings*

## The Saga of our Bridge

The building of the first bridge across the Murray between Echuca and Moama River was a long drawn out process as was its replacement some 140 years later.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1870

Mr Jennings asked the Secretary for Public Works -

1. Whether this Government and that of Victoria have yet agreed upon a site for the bridge over the Murray, at Moama, towards the erection of which sums of money have been voted by this House?
  2. Are there any funds available at present for the erection of such bridge?
  3. Has any design been adopted for the structure?
  4. Is it intended to construct the bridge, when erected, so that it could be used also for a railway bridge, if required ?
- Mr Sutherland answered -

1. Yes.
2. £16,000 was voted on loan for a bridge at Echuca or Moama.
3. A drawing has been prepared, but the bridge is to be made by the Chief Engineer for Railways in Victoria, on this colony paying one-half.
4. Yes

*Australian Town and Country Journal*  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 1870

The Secretary certainly didn't waste words. Mr Jennings, later Sir Patrick Jennings was the local member of the Legislative Council, and the owner of Warbreccan Station, and probably had an interest in the Deniliquin Moama Railway.

As the bridge across the Murray between Echuca and Moama was nearing completion, the locals began expressing their concern in the *Riverine Herald* regarding the width of the

bridge. They complained that the councilors had seen and agreed to the plan, which the correspondents believed, did not have sufficient width. When the bridge was first opened the train had sole use of the bridge and all other traffic had to continue using the punts, until a protest meeting was held, when they stormed the bridge, forcing this to change.

With the Deniliquin Moama Railway sharing the bridge with all other traffic, and the train having priority for use of the bridge, the locals complained that no one would be able to travel between Echuca and Moama when ever a train was crossing the bridge.

There is no mention of how many trains crossed the bridge each day at the time. In 1880 they were still sorting out difficulties of crossing the bridge, the following advice appeared in the *Riverine Herald*, - In a recent issue we referred to the inconvenience caused by the rails on the Murray bridge. This difficulty would not be so much felt if drivers of vehicles would pay attention to the general rule of the roads by each taking their right side when two meet. There is room for two vehicles to pass on the bridge. Drivers from Moama should keep on the downstream side of the bridge where no obstructions exist. Those proceeding from Echuca to Moama find a good road by driving on the upstream side. On this side one wheel will run between the rails, the other on the east side of the rails, while the horse or horses will run close to the eastern rail."

*Riverine Herald* 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1880.

When did we change from driving of the right side of the road to driving on the left? This is the bridge which was the only connection between Echuca and Moama for the next 140 plus years, and some how we seemed to manage!

*Shirley Durrant*

## My time in Cyprus in 1974 EMFHG Monthly Activity Presentation on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

After a long back packing trip from London through Europe we finally arrived in Cyprus after living on a Kibbutz in Israel for four months. Our intention was to find work to fund the rest of our journey, so that we could move onto Egypt eventually, and visit ancient sites there. We had tried to organize work in Athens before we left Greece for April and May in 1974, but the tourist places said that the season did not begin fully until July, so we checked out Famagusta on our way to Israel in December and it was a possibility. The following synopsis is necessary to understand the way events happened in that summer of 1974.

Cyprus was and still is a major tourist destination in the Mediterranean. The country has an advanced high-income economy. The Republic of Cyprus has been a member of the Commonwealth since 1961.

Its ancient history has been basically dominated by the Mycenaean Greeks going back to the 2nd millennium BC. as it was considered a strategic location in the Eastern Mediterranean. It was subsequently occupied by several major powers, until there were three centuries of Ottoman (Turkish) rule between 1571 and 1878.

### Recent History of Cyprus

Cyprus was placed under the United Kingdom's administration based on the Cyprus Convention in 1878 and was formally annexed by the UK in 1914. The future of the island became a matter of disagreement between the two prominent ethnic communities, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. From the 19th century onwards, the Greek Cypriot population pursued *enosis*, union with Greece, which became a Greek national

policy in the 1950s. The Turkish Cypriot population initially advocated the continuation of the British rule, then demanded the annexation of the island to Turkey, and in the 1950s, together with Turkey, established a policy of *taksim*, the partition of Cyprus and the creation of a Turkish area in the north.

There are also two small British Overseas Territories on the island, Akrotiri and Dhekelia; they are administered as Sovereign Base Areas (S.B.A.) of the United Kingdom. They are small remnants of British occupation of the island from 1878 to 1960.

### What started the conflict in Cyprus?

In July 1974 a Greek military coup, which aimed to unite Cyprus with mainland Greece, led to a Turkish invasion and the division of the island between Turkish Northern Cyprus and the Southern Greek Cypriot Republic of Cyprus.

This invasion came at a terrible cost for the Greek Cypriot population and of course the hundreds of tourists who were holidaying there at the time.

Archbishop Makarios III was a Greek Cypriot archbishop, primate, statesman and politician, who served as the first President of Cyprus between 1960 and 1977. He was wanting Enosis with the campaign for Cypriot self-determination and unification with Greece. It was his government that was over thrown in the military coup ordered by the Greek military junta in Athens on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1974. The coup was enacted by Greek officers who were members of the National Guard in conjunction with EOKA B which was a Greek Cypriot nationalist guerrilla organization who had fought a campaign for the end of British rule in Cyprus, and for eventual