**SNAKES & SNAKE ATTACKS at or near Beecroft (1889-1953)**

**Empire (Sydney, NSW: 1850 - 1875), Monday 11 June 1855, page 5**

DONATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

DURING MAY, 1855.

MR. WILLIAM TUNKS. - A cobra snake, from Pennant Hills

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 8 February 1877, page 6**

DONATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN

MUSEUM.

FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

DONATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

The shed skin of a huge diamond snake, (Morelia spiletes); by Mr. C. F. Cox, Pennant Hills.

**Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta, NSW: 1875 - 1895), Saturday 24 January 1885, page 3**

Castle Hill.

NARROW ESCAPE. - Last week, while Mr. James Purser was carrying a case of fruit in his orchard, he trod on a large brown snake. The reptile instantly coiled round his leg, and endeavoured to bite him. The case of fruit soon came to grief, but it was with no little difficulty that Mr. Purser freed himself from the grasp of the reptile. A gun was speedily procured, and his snakeship quickly dispatched. A trembling sensation afterwards came over Mr. Purser, and almost deprived him of his muscular power for two days, but he has now entirely recovered.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Jan 1889**

Carlingford.

Mr. R. Ray was walking along on Sunday last towards Beecroft with two of his children, when they called his attention to a snake, which was then only within two feet of them, and, in the act of springing. Fortunately, there was a stick laying handy and Mr. Ray being used to the despatch of these reptiles, soon made short work of it. The snake was of the brown species and measured about 7 feet. It is the largest snake of that kind that he has seen about here for many years. Two years ago, Mr. Ray captured alive on Docker’s land a diamond snake about seven feet long and presented it to the Sydney Museum. I believe he is a terror to snakes as he well knows how to handle them.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 4 February 1893, page 4**

Current News.

The Parramatta police are great on snakes just now. Constable Cormack was going home from his several hours hard tramp on Monday morning and looking up at the stars thought they were like angel's eyes gazing with pity on man's, especially a policeman's sorrowful pilgrimage here below, when he espied a snake lying full length across the footpath near the railway station in Darcy-street. "I'll give him the foot"' thought George and so he did,

when he found that somebody had been before him and that the snake was only a body. A second glance, by the light of a lamp showed such a beautifully coloured skin that Cormack took the lot (it was 5ft 6in in length) into custody and carried it home and skinned it. When he is wearing the braces, or belt, he intends to get the skin turned into in the dim future we hope he won't draw the long bow too strong and tell his grandchildren how he killed that snake.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 May 1893, page 7**

A Little Dog with a Big Record.

Toby, the half-bred Scotch terrier, the property of Mr. John Purser, of North Rocks, Pennant Hills, whose deeds of daring and vermin extinction have previously been chronicled in the columns of the Argus, has been at it again, and beats all previous performances. Last season his record was 365. This season (about six months) he did 447, as follows: — Snakes 14, slow-worms 26, jew lizards 35, rough lizards 174, smooth lizards 45, bush rats 57, house rats 13, mice 67, bandicoots 14, kangaroo rats 2. One of the snakes was 5ft 6in long. This record only includes those which Mr. Purser has actually seen himself. Tempting offers have been made for the purchase of Toby, but Mr. Purser says no money would buy him.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 March 1894, page 4**

Current News.

A Wonderful Dog.

We have to record the death of M. John Purser's wonderful little dog, Toby, the famous snake killer, of the North Rocks, whose record has appeared in these columns for the last two years. On Wednesday week he came across a very large tiger snake, measuring nearly five feet in length, the largest of its kind captured in the district. Of course, as usual, a battle commenced. The snake was despatched, but not before he had driven his fangs into the dog. The usual remedies were administered, but without affect, and the little fellow, after a few hours of great agony, expired. Mr. Purser and his family are naturally very sorry at losing such a valuable animal. This was the thirtieth snake killed, besides, some hundreds of smaller vermin during the two and half years that Mr. Purser has owned the dog. This is the last record of the grand little dog.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 March 1894, page 4**

Current News.

A Close Shave, at present residing with her mother, Mrs. Caldwell, Phillip-street, in taking an article required from the kitchen safe, felt a tickling sensation in the back of the fingers and promptly withdrew her hand. Looking to find the cause she observed as she imagined the head of a lizard with its tongue in motion, but called her brother to make an examination, who after removing a few jars, discovered a black snake, which with some trouble he killed. The reptile measured three feet eight inches, and how it got inside the safe is a mystery. The lady who had so lucky an escape from being bitten may be congratulated.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 17 March 1894, page 7**

Pennant Hills.

Snakes. - The other day a snake was discovered in the wood heap at Mr. E. J. Maher's and in its endeavour to escape it bit a valuable cattle dog, which died in a few hours afterwards. It was about 3 feet in length and of a dark yellowish colour, such as was never seen in the district before. It was a very venomous one, as his dog died very quickly after being bitten.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 March 1894, page 4**

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**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 May 1894**

BREVITIES.

Rev. E. Hargrave, of Castle Hill, has quite a menagerie of live snakes and other reptiles, and is an enthusiastic naturalist.

**Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta, NSW: 1875 - 1895), Saturday 27 September 1884, page 3**

Castle Hill.

Snakes. - I have no doubt you will soon have make a snake yarn to record, for they are becoming very numerous already. Two lads, sons of Mr. James Purser, have killed no less than nine within the last few days, and "Charlie" the Javanese, had a desperate encounter a few days ago with a large brown snake. It appears that "Charlie" armed himself with a paling, and advancing towards the snake, and, as he afterwards expressed it, "The schenake stand on him tail," but instead of striking it with the paling, he struck himself on the nose and caused that organ to bleed. When he saw the blood, he declared that "schenake" had bitten him. However, assistance was soon rendered, to and his snakeship was despatched, and " Charlie" is progressing favourably.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 October 1895, page 8**

Tom Davis, the maintenance man at Seven Hills, killed a brown snake five feet long on Monday. The reptile was very savage, and Tom could not get near it, being obliged to sling the mattock at it; which he did with telling effect.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 October 1895, page 8**

Pennant Hills.

An interesting Sight. - Mr. A. P. Maher, while working in the orchard on Monday, witnessed an interesting occurrence, in which a member of the kookaburra tribe and a brown snake, were the actors. Mr. Maher saw a laughing jackass dart suddenly down to the ground, and for the minute thought the bird had been maimed by someone; but the jackass as suddenly flew up again with a brown snake about four feet long, and, lodging on an adjacent fence, battered the head of the snake against the top rail. This method of destruction occupied about five or six minutes, during which time Mr. Maher called Mr. Silas Mobbs over to witness the affair. Having succeeded in killing the snake, the bird flew away, and perched himself in a tree, where he had a “dainty morsel” off the snake, and then commenced laughing (exultantly, it seemed) over his very useful adventure with a natural enemy.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 October 1895, page 6**

AROUND THE HILLS.

Mr. Walter Oakes despatched three snakes in one day recently. He shot two, a black one and a brown one, in his paddocks, and killed a green one while driving to Parramatta.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 9 November 1895, page 7**

AROUND THE HILLS.

Two snakes were dug out and killed on Mr. Smith s orchard, Baulkham Hills north, on Tuesday.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 23 November 1895, page 6**

AROUND THE HILLS.

It took seven men and a boy (with a lady screaming the while) to kill a small brown snake at Mr. Noakes's, Baulkham Hills. W. North did the deed at last with a consignment of timber — about half a tree.

A young man, Mr. A. J. McDonald, of Castle Hill, was bitten on the trousers by a black snake on Monday. Young Arthur Wilkinson jumped on the reptile and killed it before it could strike a second time.

Mr. C. J. Moore, of Castle Hill, has lost nine pigs already through snake-bite this season.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 30 November 1895, page 7**

AROUND THE HILLS.

Horace Kentwell killed a large black snake on Sunday afternoon.

Sid. Crane, of Castle Hill, killed a big carpet snake on Tuesday, which, when opened, was found to have gouged two house-rats.

Two sons of Mr. D. T. Buckly, of Castle Hill, killed a large black snake on Sunday, which endangered the lives of some young children at his place,

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 7 December 1895, page 6**

AROUND THE HILLS.

A big snake was killed on Mr. Frank Iredale’s place on Sunday.

The singing of the Baulkham Hills Wesleyan choir, under their new organist, is even convincing the serpent of his evil ways, for one of the obnoxious tribe has taken up his abode under the organ. The reptile has been seen by the school children, who are much alarmed at its presence.

A Pennant Hills schoolboy killed three snakes the other day.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 25 January 1896, page 6**

Mil THE. Hill

PENNANT HILLS.

A resident in the vicinity of Thompson's corner, Pennant Hills, killed a black snake about 4 feet long in his well on Wednesday morning.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 24 October 1896, page 10**

Pennant Hill.

Snake. — Last Sunday a large snake was captured in the newly formed Ashburton Tennis Court.

**Cumberland Free Press, Sat 31 Oct 1896**

BEECROFT.

A Musical Serpent.

Miss Gertie Mason, the daughter of Mr. Frederick Mason sen., was much alarmed the other day by a black snake, which, being evidently of a musical turn, entered the house while the young lady was playing the piano. Her screams brought her brother, Mr. Chas. Mason, to her aid, who drove the Intruder outside, and shortly afterwards shot him.

Mr. Connolly killed a large black snake by his front door on Monday.

**Cumberland Free Press, Sat 21 Nov 1896**

BEECROFT.

A woman is said to have had a narrow escape from being bitten by a large brown snake, during last week. The fangs are said to have broken off in the leather of her boot. A dislike of Press honours is responsible for the hiding of personal details.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 28 November 1896, page 10**

CASTLE HILL.

Mr. John Tuckwell, sen., after an interview with “Old Sir Henry, the Second,” the other evening, was confronted by a black snake as he was leaving. The reptile fairly stood up at him, but was soon put out of the road.

Mr. John Tuckwell, jun., is alleged to be putting up a record this season, having killed 14 snakes already.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 2 Jan 1897**

ALONG THE LINE.

On Boxing Day Mr. W. E. H. Nicolle on visiting his poultry yard, at Beecroft saw a black snake. He went back to his house and got his gun but on returning to the yard the reptile was missing. A search however resulted in his snake-ship being found coiled up by a log in the vicinity. Mr. Nicolle thereupon shot the unwelcome visitor, which measured 5 feet in length.

Last week Mr. W. Naylor, sen., of Pennant Hills, killed a carpet snake measuring 10 feet long. It came out from under a log on which he was sitting, in Mrs. Black's bush.

**Cumberland Free Press, Sat 9 Jan 1897**

PENNANT HILLS.

A SNAKE ADVENTURE.

As Mr. Bertie Carr was crossing the orchard at Pennant Hills recently, and was stepping from the ploughed land into the grass, he felt something writhing beneath his foot. Looking down he was horrified to see a large black snake. Having luckily stepped on the serpent's head, Mr. Carr escaped without injury.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 February 1897, page 12**

PENNANT HILLS.

The other day Mr. Joseph Harrison saw a big snake run down a post hole and he promptly poured some boiling water after it. The snake immediately came out, whereupon Mr. Harrison finished its course with joy. He now believes there are many ways of killing snakes.

On Saturday morning one of the girls of the neighbourhood noticed a large black snake in the well at Mr. Edwards' place. Messrs. Kenny and Edwards and Charles Sinfield tried to kill it, but it disappeared. Later on, Master Charles Sinfield speared it, and got it out of the water.

Mr. Kenny has been on the look-out for the brown snake that is frequently seen near a culvert here— with intent to slay.

**Cumberland Free Press, Sat 10 Apr 1897**

Items and Incidents.

A girl, bitten by a black snake at North Road, had her life saved by a lady scarifying and sucking the wound.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Apr 1897**

BEECROFT.

Snakes. — It is rather an unusual time of the year for snakes to be about, but on Tuesday afternoon last Mr. Wheeler's young sons discovered one not far from the house. One of the youngsters, George, pluckily tackled the reptile with a waddy and succeeded in breaking its back first blow, so that the rest of the performance of killing it was not a great difficulty. On being measured the reptile was found to be 7 feet 7 inches in length and was one of the brown species.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 June 1897, page 12**

DURAL.

A Peculiar Pet.— Mr. Thomas Fishburn has for the past two or three months been taking an interest in a rather peculiar pet, namely, a diamond snake, which he captured alive. The reptile measures over seven feet in length, and is, apparently, as docile as a lamb. Its fangs have not been drawn, and as a specimen of the reptile species it is as grand in its way as one could wish for. The snake since its capture has been emulating the feats of Dr. Tanner, and will not partake of any food, having previously gorged itself in true snake fashion before it was captured. The diamond species is said to be non-venomous.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 23 October 1897, page 10**

PENNANT HILLS.

Mrs. George Maher trod on a black snake on Wednesday morning in the orchard, and narrowly escaped being bitten by the reptile, which was promptly killed by Mr. Robert Maher.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 20 November 1897, page 11**

PENNANT HILLS.

A tiger-snake, which Mr. George Shields afterwards shot, killed his fox-terrier the other day on Clarke's paddock.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Jan 1898**

MEMORABILIA

[29 August 1897]. - Walter Brown, a cyclist, was bitten by a snake at East Carlingford and saved by the promptitude of a young lady companion, Miss Brigg.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 12 February 1898, page 12**

PENNANT HILLS.

Mr. T. Thompson, sen., while on a visit here last week, had a curious experience. He noticed a small brown snake disappear in some scrub and struck a blow at it with a stick. The reptile clung to the stick as he lifted it in the air again and twirled down on to Mr. Thompson's arm and bit him. He scarified the wound, but felt ill for a couple of days after.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Feb 1898**

CARLINGFORD.

A Snake Yarn. - The 12 -year-old daughter of Mr. Robert Spurway was crossing the bush from Beecroft school the other afternoon, when she encountered two savage snakes. One of the reptiles sprang at her, and she only escaped by stooping suddenly and the snake went over her shoulder. The unfortunate girl was terror stricken, but made for the road, and luckily the snakes did not give chase, although at this season they are known to be aggressive.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 17 September 1898, page 11**

Pennant Hills.

A snake was killed by Mr. Lumby in Mr. A. Smith's orchard on Saturday last.

**Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870 - 1919), Saturday 8 October 1898, page 11**

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

The Carpet Snake - Subscriber: Is the carpet snake protected? - No; snakes are not protected in any way. The carpet snake and its variety the diamond snake, however, do great good by keeping down small vermin; and, as both are non-venomous, it is a pity to destroy them.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 Nov 1898**

Cheltenham.

An Alarming Incident. - A startling incident occurred on Friday morning at ‘Mount Pleasant’, the residence of Mr. W. Chorley, at Cheltenham. The boys have a large cage on the back verandah in which they have a number of diamond sparrows and other small birds. Hearing a commotion in the cage, Mrs. Chorley went to see what was the matter and was considerably surprised and alarmed to discover that the cage had been invaded by a large black snake. The gardener was promptly summoned and he shot the reptile, but not before it had killed one of the sparrows. It died with its victim firmly hooked in its teeth.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 November 1898, page 11**

Pennant Hills.

Mr. J. Franks killed a big black snake on Wednesday morning, and another was killed in the vicinity the same day by Mr. C. Pogson.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 7 January 1899, page 10**

Beecroft.

Deaf Adder. — The mere mention of a deaf adder is enough to make some people feel 'creepy,' but the knowledge that such a dangerous reptile may be encountered during a morning or evening constitutional, and in such a genteel quarter too as the tennis courts, is somewhat alarming. Mr. Messingham, of Beecroft, discovered one there on New Year's Day and very promptly ended its existence.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Saturday 25 Feb 1899**

Beecroft.

The Village Green. —The name given to this recreation reserve is very much nicer than the reserve itself. It is about two or three acres in extent and is situated between the Beecroft-road and the railway station but is remarkable for nothing at present except as a harbor for locusts, lizards, and snakes.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 January 1900, page 10**

Pennant Hills.

 Rather Unpleasant. - Fred Harvey, one of the drivers for Mr. Alcock, of Pennant Hills, had the unconscious experience of riding a mile or two on Wednesday with a green snake under his coat on the seat of his cart. It appears that after emerging from the premises of a customer in Curtis' bush. Harvey espied a large green snake, and went for it. In his attempt to destroy it, the reptile suddenly disappeared, and although Harvey searched all round the cart, he could see no signs of the snake. He therefore mounted his seat and continued his round, which was nearly completed. About an hour afterwards, Harvey was preparing to get his second round of bread on the cart and had occasion to get something from his coat, which he had been sitting upon. Great was his surprise to see the head of a green snake lifted erect, protruding from the folds of his garment. This time there was no mistake made, and his snakeship was speedily dispatched.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 1**

BREVITIES.

The N.S.W. vital statistics report for year 1899 shows 144 deaths by drowning, 131 by burns and scalds, 39 by sunstroke, 6 by snake-bite, 1 by eating ice-cream, and one by swallowing fruit stone. During 1899 there were 195 cases of suicide in N. S. Wales, 47 by poison, 47 by gunshot wounds, and 24 by hanging.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 October 1900, page 10**

Thornleigh.

SNAKES. - Mr. J. H. Shields, of Pennant Hills, killed two black snakes with one blow just outside of his orchard on Wednesday. He had them "on exhibition" at the railway station for a time. They were described as "yellow-bellied venomous-looking brutes."

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 November 1900, page 4**

East Hills.

Mr. H. Reid killed yet another snake at Baulkham Hills on Thursday.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 15 December 1900, page 11**

Pennant Hills.

Lively Snakes. - On Monday last Clara Shields went into the bush opposite her parents' residence, on the Castle Hill road, to hunt for some hen's nests that had been made there, when she trod on a large black snake, as she reached her hand for some eggs that she found. She ran off home screaming. Assistance soon arrived, but the snake had made himself scarce. On Wednesday morning the same little girl was nursing a little brother in the orchard, near the house, when she disturbed a brown snake about four feet long, which also got away before assistance could arrive at the spot. It is reported that snakes abound in some parts of Pennant Hills just now, and the weather being very warm, they are extremely lively.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Jan 1902**

Hornsby.

Supposed Snake bite. - On Monday last the daughter of Mr. Kennedy was bitten on the thumb by some reptile - supposed to have been a snake. Dr. Grieves was summoned, and, while waiting for his arrival Mr. Hobson, the chemist, bound up the arm and administered

strychnine. Dr. Grieves scarified the thumb and resorted to the usual method of treatment. Up till Thursday night the child had not developed any alarming symptoms. When bitten she was gathering wood near her father's residence, about a mile and a half from town.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 19 March 1902, page 2**

The Roman Catholic Cemetery Ablaze.

Quite a sensation was created in Parramatta North on Sunday afternoon by a sudden outbreak of fire in the Roman Catholic cemetery in Church-street. The residents turned out in force and with boughs of bush wood endeavoured to beat out the flames which spread rapidly amongst the dry grass and scrub, being fanned by a brisk breeze from the south. Presently the Parramatta fire-brigade arrived on the scene with their manual and attached their hose to a stand-pipe in Isabella-street. Though there was no great pressure of water a sufficient stream was obtained to check the conflagration which was confined to a portion of the cemetery adjoining the Pennant Hills-road. The grass and plants growing in this patch were consumed, fencing round some of the graves was more or less burnt and the outside fence slightly charred, but no serious damage was incurred. The long dry grass is certainly a menace to the property within the enclosure, besides a harbour for snakes, which are said to be there in good numbers. Had the outbreak occurred at any hour of the night when assistance is not so easily obtainable, or when the wind was at all high, the destruction would have been considerable.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 2 Jul 1902**

Beecroft.

A Snake Story. - Quite recently there was a great commotion in the house of a well-known Beecroft resident over the advent of a snake in the bedroom. The lady of the house discovered the reptile under the bed and enlisted the services of four youths. Arming themselves with sticks and other death dealing weapons they posted themselves in the vicinity of the bed and prepared for instant action the moment the snake would make its appearance. In the meantime, the master of the house was made acquainted with the unwelcome discovery. He put two charges in his double-barrelled gun and fired. The 'snake' turned out to be nothing more deadly than Mrs. --------‘s apron ! It wouldn't have mattered so much if these tennis boys had not been called in.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 11 October 1902, page 10**

Pennant Hills.

Snakes. — Barry Bellamy, a youth of some eleven summers and a famous marksman, shot a big green snake that was gliding amongst the boughs of a tall tree last week. The Saturday before Mr. A. Bellamy killed a large black snake, and Mr. F. Thompson, while driving out Kenthurst way the other day, also killed a monstrous reptile.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 29 Nov 1902**

Thornleigh.

A Black Snake. — The quiet and picturesque little town of Thornleigh was invaded, on Monday, by a snake—a black one fully six feet in length. Mr. William Fathers "spotted" it on his way home; and the snake is now no more.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 December 1902, page 10**

Dural.

An Unwelcome Guest. — About a fortnight ago a black snake was seen in the playground at Mr. Sam Moore’s, but it got into a shed close by, which was filled with hay, before it could be captured. During the past week it was making another survey of the ground, when several of the children appeared on the scene and kept it at bay until their shouts attracted the attention of Harold, their eldest brother, who was engaged in the orchard. On his arrival, one of them had the gun ready for him, and a well-aimed shot soon ended its career.

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 17 Jan 1903**

Notes.

Poultry thieves have been uncommonly active and successful in their vocations of late, so active, indeed as to elude the police and the most vigilant owners. Mrs. W. Abram, of Beecroft, however caught a thief in the act this week. On opening the fowl-house at break of day on Tuesday Mrs. Abram saw a big snake coiled up in the centre of the floor. Calling her husband, he got a gun and shot it. To their surprise they found that the snake had a three months' old chicken half swallowed, and a bigger one was lying dead on the floor.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 7 November 1903, page 11**

District Pars.

A few days ago, Mr. S. J. Moore, sen., espied a very large black snake making its way from the chaff house. Mr. C. T. Moore put an end to its career.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Dec 1903**

A STARTLING EXPERIENCE.

Little Walter Levinge, aged nine, son of the obliging stationmaster at Beecroft, met with a startling experience the other day. He had gone with a companion to the railway embankment to “hunt up” the family goat, and, while walking along through the grass, felt something dragging behind his foot. Looking down, he discovered that he was trailing a brown snake after him. He was wearing sandshoes, and the reptile, upon which he had evidently trodden, had fastened its teeth so securely in the India rubber sole, that it was unable to free itself. Of course, it was quickly dispatched. The boy is to be congratulated upon his escape.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 16 January 1904, page 11**

Pennant Hills.

Snake. — A snake, measuring fully five feet, was discovered the other day in the vicinity of Mr. Gaylard's (the stationmaster's) water tank. It was pursued and promptly wiped out of existence. Mr. Gaylard has been on the look-out for snakes ever since, it being taken for granted that the deceased snake has some relations.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 2 Apr 1904**

Beecroft

Shakes. — Several snakes have been killed at Beecroft recently, and on Sunday a large snake

of the tiger species was despatched by a man in the employ of Mr. T. Skellett. This particular reptile, which was of the venomous classes, had been seen about the place for several days previously, and its death was a source of great relief.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 17 November 1906, page 10**

Pennant Hills.

SNAKES. — Snakes are very prevalent in the Pennant Hills district this sea-son. Many of these reptiles have been seen about, and a few have been killed.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW : 1888 - 1950), Saturday 24 November 1906, page 11**

Pennant Hills.

SNAKES. — These reptiles appear to be more in evidence this year than for a long time past. Last Sunday afternoon Miss Bertha Pike, a 13-year-old daughter of the schoolmaster, encountered one of the black species, three and a-half feet in length. She was going out of the house by the kitchen door, and when about to step outside. She espied the reptile just in time to avoid stepping upon it. Had she not seen it in time, she would undoubtedly have trodden upon it, and very likely have been bitten. It was making its way into the house, so she called out to those inside, who quickly closed the door and thus barred his snakeship's further progress in that direction. The little girl then ran and obtained a stout stick with which she pluckily assailed the snake, and laid into it for all she was worth. In a short space of time she had, to use a common snake-yarn expression, despatched it, much to her own satisfaction and the peace of mind of the other members of the family.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Sep 1907**

Beecroft.

SNAKES. — Snakes are beginning to make their appearance in the district. A brown snake, about 5ft. long, was killed on Tuesday night, just outside of Mr. C. C. Tucker's gate.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Jan 1908**

Dural.

SNAKES.— On New Year's Day, as Mr. S. J. Moore, sen., was driving with his wife and daughter across the Rocks road on their way to Beecroft, and when nearing Lorenzini's bridge, he saw a large black snake making its way across the road. He alighted and killed it. On examination it was found to be a tiger snake and almost five foot in length. After this little delay the three again proceeded on their way rejoicing but had not gone very far when the quick eye of the driver espied another reptile just starting to cross the road near Radley's bridge. This caused another halt, when the snake rested, lifted its head six or eight inches as much as to say, “Who are you?” Mr. Moore again alighted and procured a stick from the scrub, which he trimmed ready for the fight, and made his appearance on the road again before the snake moved. It then tried to make its way up the bank to a place of safety, but had lingered too long, for another well-aimed strike from Mr. Moore brought it down with a broken back and its life was ended. Mr. Moore says he never saw a snake like this one before. It measured six feet, very thin, and of a very dark lead colour. Mr. Moore again resumed his seat and reached the residence of his son, Mr. Albert Moore, without any more delay.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 6 Mar 1909**

Beecroft.

SNAKE. - On Monday a leaden-coloured snake was killed by Mr. Way, sen., in the grounds of 'Roslyn,' Beecroft, the residence of Miss Lamont. Mr. Way noticed a peculiar noise the birds were making as they kept flying over and darting close to something they saw in the grass, and the pony which was grazing close by appeared to be alarmed, and kept running near the spot the birds were attracted to. Mr. Way, who is an adept at snake killing, soon spotted the reptile, and, securing a stick, dispatched it in a twinkling. It measured just a little over four feet.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Oct 1911**

A Vicious Snake.

A rather exciting incident occurred in Mr. C. Churchill Tucker's orchard, ‘Plympton’, Beecroft, this week. Two horses were being driven in a plough, when one of them trod on a large black snake, which immediately curled itself round the leg of the frightened animal, and fastened its fangs into the flesh. Mr. Swannell, veterinary surgeon, Parramatta, was immediately summoned, but fortunately the horse showed no symptoms of snake poisoning. The snake was killed.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 22 March 1913, page 8**

Carlingford.

Snake. - As a motor was passing Fitzpatrick's cottage on the Pennant Hills-road, not far from the Carlingford station, in the evening about 7 o'clock, it was seen to stop suddenly and go astern. A gentleman got out and went over to Mr. L. Bowerman's cottage and said there was a snake crossing the road. Mr. Robert Bowerman was at his brother's, and he got a gun, and found that the snake had made into his brother's yard. He fired at it and blew its head clean off. It was a black snake about 4ft. long. Pennant Hills-road Is a main road carrying much traffic, and few people would expect to meet such company on it. Many folks are not aware that some snakes roam about at night hunting food, especially the venomous brown snake. This little incident may put such on their guard, as this is the time snakes are extra dangerous.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 4 December 1915, page 6**

FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

Our Dural correspondent writes: — “A very unusual thing happened on Tuesday afternoon on the New Line road from Dural to Pennant Hills. Mr. W. C. Moore, of Dural, and Mr. Chambers, of Rock's road, were the privileged spectators and were actually the referees of a great fight between an iguana about 4ft. in length and a brown snake not much longer. Mr. Chambers had been watching the battle royal for some time before Mr. Moore drove down the track. At last, the iguana put the snake to sleep with a very savage grip, and having satisfied his pride he calmly proceeded to swallow the enemy. Then Mr. Moore took a hand and tried to settle the iguana, but although the latter was now weighted with over 4ft. of snake inside he got away. But why should Mr. Moore want to kill the slayer of the venomous reptile “The Argus” would presume to ask.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Apr 1917**

BITTEN BY A SNAKE.

Mr. Poulton, of Thornleigh.

Whilst removing some sheets of iron off a well on Saturday, disturbed a big brown snake, which bit him on the leg. The snake was killed, and It was found to be 5ft. 10in. In length. Mr. Poulton cut the bitten part of his log deeply with a razor and rubbed in some permanganate of potash crystals. He did not get excited over the matter, but coolly walked along the road with his little boy, and spoke casually about the incident to Mr. F. J. Adamson. That gentleman took a more serious view of the matter, and, on his advice, Mr. Poulton paid a visit to Dr. Rygate, of Beecroft, who treated him. Afterwards he was declared out of danger and allowed to return home.

**Daily Post (Hobart, Tas.), Tue 2 Apr 1918**

OPIUM IN THE HILLS.

BEECROFT’S Secret.

There was also a suggestion of thrill about it, for the reason that the men were warned before they left that snakes and death adders abounded in the hush. Consequentially they moved about cautiously, and several times there were false snake alarms.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Mar 1919**

BEECROFT.

A large snake, fully 5ft, in length was killed on Friday in Beecroft-road by Mr. Tom Power, driver of Messrs. Doran and Gilroy's delivery van. The creature took some killing.

**Sydney Mail (NSW), Wed 21 Apr 1920**

HONOUR LETTER.

DEAR CINDERELLA, — Beecroft.

I have often read the letters sent you in the Sydney Mail, and I would like to become one of your correspondents ever so much. We live in a suburb called Beecroft, 17 miles from Sydney. It is a very nice place. There are two sawmills, two- grocery stores, a bakery, a post-office, and a chemist's shop. It is very interesting to watch the sawmill at work. First, they roll the logs down to the trolleys to the place where the saw is fixed. Then the log is pushed on rollers to the saw, and then it goes gradually through, which results in a grinding, ear-splitting sound. I had a little cousin from Japan yesterday, who speaks more Japanese than she does English. She is very anxious to hear a laughing jackass, as she has never seen or heard a bird of that species before. We have a great number of snakes around here. We killed one at school which was 4ft 6in and as thick as one's arm. There are a great many iguanas and lizards also; but they are not venomous, only they give a nasty bite. Some men set traps for rabbits, too. Two men came up with a fine plump grey one. So, Beecroft is quite an up-to-date and popular place. As I have told you all the news, I will end my letter now. — Your sincere correspondent, ISABELLE ELLIS (aged 10).

(Dear Isabelle. - How interesting for you to have your cousin with you. You must show her as much of Australian life as you can. Beecroft is certainly a pretty place, and, as you say, it is up-to-date. I suppose that bunny thought it was too up-to-date when he found traps set for him. — Cinderella.)

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 13 October 1920, page 4**

Hornsby Council.

Mr. W. Laughton, of Laughton dale, directed attention to the ti-tree on the road through his property, which, he said, damaged the fences considerably and was a harbor for snakes.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 November 1921, page 8**

Northern Line Flashlights.

Several snakes were killed at Thornleigh last week.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 January 1922, page 8**

Northern Line Flashlights.

Mir. Joe Emmett killed an exceptionally large black snake near Thornleigh railway station on Saturday afternoon last. They are unusually plentiful this season.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Apr 1922**

Northern Line Flashlights.

A couple of boy scouts killed a black reptile at Cheltenham on Monday last.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Aug 1922**

Northern Line Flashlights.

Three boys who were bathing In Devlin's Creek, Epping, on Saturday last, noticed a small black snake on a rock nearby. The lads promptly killed the reptile.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 October 1922, page 8**

Northern Line Flashlights.

A small black snake was killed by two boys in a paddock off Abukela-road, Epping, on Saturday afternoon last.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 11 November 1922, page 1**

BREVITIES.

Whilst on his way home from school, Basil Kells, aged 11 years, and residing In Pennant Parade, Carlingford, discovered a snake, which he gamely attacked and killed. The reptile measured 4ft 3in.

**Arrow (Sydney, NSW), Fri 8 Dec 1922**

COURSE FOR BEECROFT.

 I am very pleased to see that the golfers of Beecroft are calling a meeting with regard to laying out a course in the district.

Well do I remember the old Beecroft course. We were advised to mind the snakes, which played havoc with the nerves of most of us.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 6 Jan 1923**

THE BOYS AND THE SNAKE.

Whilst roaming through the thick scrub between Pennant Hills and Beecroft on Saturday afternoon last, three boys - residents of Pennant Hills - noticed a snake reposing on a track leading down to a water hole. Scenting danger, the reptile made an effort to hide himself off into the thick undergrowth. But the boys were too smart for him. With stout sticks they had the snake ready for the inquest within a couple of minutes. They brought their capture into Pennant Hills for exhibition purposes among their pals. The snake, which was of the black variety, measured between four and five foot.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Mar 1923**

Northern Line Flashlights.

A snake was recently killed on the platform at Beecroft railway station. It was reposing near the signal levers.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Tuesday 1 February 1927, page 5**

HORNSBY COUNCIL.

BLACBERRIES AND SNAKES. The fact that, on the previous day, a large black snake had been found in his yard at Eastwood, quite close to his 7-year-old daughter, and that the snake had escaped into the blackberry bushes, prompted Mr. F. A. Hill to write to the Council to have the bushes removed. As they are on private property, the Council Is hampered in Its movements, and a report is to be obtained for next meeting.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Fri 16 Mar 1928**

BLACKBERRIES AND BLACK SNAKES

Mr. G. A. Heuman, of Beecroft-road, Beecroft, sees snakes in a literal sense, and they are black ones. Apparently, they are playful ones, for he asserts that they are most persistent, and repeatedly travelling from the blackberry bushes up to his house.

This is from the back street, and the matter looks worse from his assertion that he has no access from the front street, owing to the fact that it is overgrown with blackberries. The engineer will be instructed to have a look at the place.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Friday 13 April 1928, page 6**

HORNSBY COUNCIL.

Weeds are growing, blackberries from the adjoining park pay no respect to dividing fences, sand and debris washes on to the fence, miniature lakes exist on the roadway, a large snake was recently killed in the long grass where the children cross to go to the kindergarten

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Thursday 4 October 1928, page 12**

Narrow Escape Bite of Black Snake.

Mr. Will Pollard, of Cecil-avenue, Castle Hill, had a painful and dangerous experience on Monday morning, 24th ult., when working for Mr. Salisbury in Pennant Hills-road. He accidentally trod upon a black snake, which retaliated by severely biting him on the leg. The doctor who attended him said if he had been ten minutes later in obtaining treatment there would have been no chance of saving his life. After spending two days in hospital, he was allowed to return home and is now considered to be out of danger. His arms are very stiff as a result of the interjection of the antidote. The incident should be a warning to those in the Hills district and other outlying places that snakes are particularly vicious at this time of the year.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Monday 8 October 1928, page 4**

Bitten by Snake.

The exceptionally warm weather of the past few days has had the effect of bringing the snakes from their lairs earlier than usual. Mr. Pollard, of Pennant Hills, had that fact brought painfully before him recently, when a black snake resented being trodden upon, and bit him on the leg. A prompt visit to the surgery of Dr. Davis and the sacrifice of a piece of his leg removed all danger, and Mr. Pollard is not much worse for his experience.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 19 February 1947, page 1**

He'll Always Have a Good Word for a Wasp.

This is the amazing story of how a wasp bite probably saved the life of eleven-years-old King's School boy, Warren Vidler.

Warren, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Vidler, Pennant-Hills Road, Parramatta, playing cricket near his home on Saturday, chased a ball that had been hit into a clump of blackberry bush. Trying to retrieve it Warren was bitten on the left arm by a wasp. At the same moment, unknown to him, he was bitten on the right arm by a venomous brown snake. Suffering from the pain of the wasp bite the boy ran home. While his mother was treating the arm, Warren cried out: "Oh, mummy, I think something has bitten my other arm." His father, recognising the marks of snake fangs, tore off his tie, used it as a tourniquet and rushed his son to Parramatta District Hospital, where effective treatment was given. The boy has now completely recovered. Residents say snakes are very prevalent in the Pennant Hills area, and that blackberry bushes favourite hide-outs of the pests, have become a double menace. They say Baulkham Hills Council should do something to eradicate the bush.

**Newcastle Sun, Fri 4 Dec 1953**

“Hose” Happened to be Snake.

SYDNEY: A 64-year-old woman grabbed what she took to be the hose from her aster bed today and discovered it was a 6ft. black snake. The woman is Mrs. Ethel Seale, of Malton rd., Beecroft, whose screams brought out her son Ross (27), who killed the snake with a stick.

“When I felt how thick it was, I knew it couldn't be a hose,” Mrs. Seale said. “My hose is red, but this dreadful thing was black. It must have been too sleepy in the sun to bite me.”

**Sydney Mail (NSW: 1912 - 1938), Wednesday 20 October 1920, page 14**

DO HORSES FEAR SNAKES?

A QUESTION I have often puzzled over, and have never yet been able to come to any definite conclusion on, is whether horses have any fear of snakes. Dogs seem to know instinctively that there is no good in them, and either give them a wide berth or do their best to destroy them. On the face of it, it doesn't seem feasible that an intelligent animal like the horse should be lacking in the instinct that the dog possesses. Yet my observations all point the other way, the following instances showing some horses' extreme unconcern or carelessness. 1 was riding one cool April morning in Queensland with a friend, when, chancing to look down, I saw his horse just in the art of stepping on to a coiled-up black snake. It was too late to give warning, and the horse trod right on it, front foot first and then with hind foot. The snake struck at both feet, and it was difficult for me to say whether the horse was bitten or not. Luckily, it proved to be the latter. On another occasion I was ploughing with a single-furrow plough on a short land. I had just turned into the furrow, without a stop, and gone half a chain, when, to my consternation, I saw a large copper snake — a deadly species — right under the furrow horse's nose, lying full length along the furrow. It was too late to stop, for the horse was putting down one foot right over the snake. But that foot, and the other three, too, covered the ground on one side of the snake, missing it by less than an inch. The horse took no notice of it whatever, and the snake also never moved. I turned a sod over it, went for a shovel, and killed it. It was 5ft long. Once again it happened, only this time it was a 6ft black snake, crawling leisurely along the furrow just in front of the horses' feet when I noticed it. Neither of them took the slightest notice of it. I could quote many other instances, too, where I've seen ridden horses step right over them. If the horse is fearless, and it arises from lack of instinct of, the snake's deadliness, how is it that one never hears of a horse dying from snakebite? — “Ashfield.”