

TIMELINES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Murwillumbah Historical Society

July 2014 Vol. 3 No. 1



Welcome

Welcome to the July 2014 edition of *Timelines*, the newsletter of the Murwillumbah Historical Society. This will be the last edition published before we return home to our Research Centre in the Museum.

The aim of these newsletters is to introduce some of the rich historical heritage we share here in Murwillumbah and environs. Thanks to our readers for the feedback you have provided. **Please keep helping us to keep improving - your feedback, input, corrections and contributions are always most welcome.**

This edition's contents:

- Hanna and Edmed, a great Tweed Enterprise - Part 1 (new series)
- Historic Buildings of Murwillumbah - the Marville Building - Part 2 (final)
- Did You Know?
- The JJ Richards Story - Part 5 (final)
- Mystery Objects
- Return to the Museum
- Society Web Update
- Society and Contact Information
- Museum Redevelopment and Update (see insert)

Hanna and Edmed, a Great Tweed Enterprise - Part 1

With the completion of our five-part story on the JJ Richards group in this edition, we are pleased to be able to begin a new serialized story on another iconic Tweed enterprise, Hanna and Edmed. Our thanks to Ross Johnson, the coordinator of this interesting history, for permission to publish it here.

The Hanna Brothers

A name that was to leave its mark on many fine buildings throughout the Northern Rivers of NSW and Southern Queensland had its infancy on the upper reaches of the Tweed River prior to World War II.

Born on the family farm called "TILPIA", in the Wallamba District some forty kilometres south-west of Taree, in 1911, and the youngest of four children, George Hanna, and his brother Robert, both with little schooling, worked around the Newcastle area, to help provide for the family.

The brothers moved to the Tweed in search of better opportunities during the Great Depression. In reminiscences of George Hanna in 1994, we were told:-

"Newcastle was a highly industrialised city. The industrial unrest was just nobody's business. There were coal and timber strikes. Many people had no housing and were living wherever they



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could find shelter. I just wanted to get out. We had heard that this district (the Tweed) had a thriving butter production."

George's older brother, Robert arrived on the Tweed first. As a twenty year old, George followed.

"Bob got work outside Uki. He got possession of a little vacant place on the roadside. I'd been in touch with him and he said if you come up, bring as many tools as you can put your hands on, but I couldn't get my hands on many tools either. I arrived with two ports, one full of tools and one full of clothing."



George & Robert Hanna (Photo courtesy: Hanna Family)

The Hanna brothers worked together and camped on job sites when necessary, travelling by whatever means possible, operating as the HANNA BROTHERS. They had a go at whatever building work they could get. The NSW Government had introduced new regulations in the Dairy Industry. Existing dairy bales were not up to the new standards and had to be rebuilt. Much of their work was the building of cow bales and cream storage facilities to conform with the new Act. Many of these still stand today under a variety of uses, such was the standard of construction.

The brothers became well-known and respected, charismatic young men in the South Arm district. They were willing entertainers whenever a social function provided the opportunity. They became trusted for their honesty and fine workmanship.

As their skills became known in the district, work expanded and spread to the construction of some of the very fine buildings in the Uki district, encompassing farm buildings, houses and churches. The



George Hanna at work on a dairy Cram farmhouse (Photo courtesy: Hanna Family) being one.

A job of which they were very proud was St Paul's, Church of England (Anglican) Church at Kunghur, dedicated on 29th October, 1933. Apart from the building all of the furniture was made by night, on site. According to Bob Hanna, they worked sixteen hours a day for three months, lost a stone in weight and added ten years to their lives!

An indication of the extensive rural population of the time was the fact that there were three sittings of supper in the Kunghur Hall at the official opening of the church. And in Bob Hanna's words; *"some didn't get their feet under the table."*

To be continued next edition...

The Marville Building - Part 2

Research, analysis and story by Nick Gouliaev. This is the final part of Nick's story, and completes the analysis and review of this Wollumbin Street Art Deco icon.

The Marville Building was designed to be a single storey structure, to complement the Austral Building next door, recently completed in 1935. The street façade comprises three shops facing Wollumbin Street, with a metal roof and awning cantilevered over the sidewalk, supported by metal struts back to the wall above the awning. The soffit lining is metal with an Art Deco pattern geometric-embossed surface design in original condition recently re-painted.



Original Art Deco soffit lining (Photo: David Taylor)

Above the awning, the wall is built up to be a parapet wall finishing well above the roof line behind, with the original brick work surface finished with smooth cement render. Half way down the wall, linear Art Deco decorative horizontal mouldings are cast into the surface of the cement render above the two end shops, making a dramatic 90-degree turn upwards towards the top of the wall parapet with a geometric rectangular Art Deco shield design in the center of the parapet wall directly above Shop Two. The top of the parapet wall features three overlapping horizontal Art Deco capping mouldings, emphasizing the linear horizontality of the simple Art Deco design. The words "Marville Building" are cast into the cement wall render; the first word above Shop One and the second word above Shop Three, proud of the wall surface, creating a three-dimensional effect so typical of 1930s.



The Art Deco shield design (Photo: David Taylor)



The side wall (Photo: David Taylor)

The recently-painted side wall adjacent to the car park is original brickwork, still with the original clay brick wall vents, with the wall top following the fall of the roof down its parapet height, hiding the metal roof behind. The rear wall is in original face brick finish with the majority of windows altered or replaced with contemporary aluminum framed windows. The rear doors to the shops are still in original condition and retain the charm of the 1930s but fitted with modern security screen doors.

The roof is skillion type, falling from the front of the

building towards the rear. Modern PVC roof gutters and downpipes are installed however these don't negate the Art Deco feeling of the rear wall. The roof retains its original timber framing rafters, battens and support beams. The roof is clad in new metal roofing material but still retains the original skylights, one per shop, demonstrating exceptionally good design by the architect for a 1938 building.

The street-front wall above the roof awning, the awning edge and soffit and the car park sidewall were all recently tastefully repainted in Art Deco colors; a credit to the owners, the James family of Brisbane, for continuing the standard of quality maintenance on this beautiful building.

The far left shop (Shop One) is currently occupied by the "Bowerbird Emporium", a variety/gifts shop which has been operating since 2002 under owners Lisa Hartshorne and Rob Duncan. It retains the most original Art Deco shop front and its interior hasn't changed since 1939; the front windows are in original



Lovely original features at Shop One (Photo: David Taylor)

condition with its glazing at the entry set in metal frames, dropped ceilings to the display windows and main entry doors with Art Deco leadlight windows above and extending to the soffit of the awning. The entry doors are the original glazed timber framed doors recessed from the sidewalk with the entry porch tiled in the original Art Deco geometric pattern and with the original terrazzo sill. The walls surrounding the windows are also original, finished with glazed blue color tiles.

Shops Two and Three also retain these original blue tiles, although their shop front windows have been altered over the years to be timber framed with clear glazing and without curved glazing at the entries. Although not in the style of 1939, they still manage to retain the Art Deco charm of the

building and remains visually appealing. The leadlighting above the new windows and entry doors has been replaced with shop advertising panels painted with the shop names; for Shop Two this is "Bakery" and for Shop Three "South of the Border – Mexican Restaurant".

Shop One has original timber floors with all original wall finishes of painted smooth cement render and with wide Art Deco skirtings to the perimeter of the walls. The ceiling is original plaster board with Art Deco ornate cornices and a decorative pattern rose/geometric design located in the centre of the shop, near the original recessed skylight. In 1939 the shop was leased by a "Hairdresser", followed by an "Oven and Bait Shop" and then a "Bicycle Shop". Remnants of these businesses are still being found in the ceiling and under the floor by the current tenant. The rear doors are original timber-framed double doors with clear glazing, opening to the rear of the shop (now used as a storage area) and a car park/delivery dock accessed from Proudfoots Lane.



The decorative ceiling rose in Shop 2 (Photo: David Taylor)

Shop Two's interior has been dramatically altered over the years. The floors throughout have been tiled to comply with Health Department requirements for bakeries. Although the internal walls are tiled, one can still see the original cement rendering above the new tiles, the original cornices to the ceiling which retains its plaster finish from 1939 and the original skylight and Art Deco decorative rose. The rear door is in original condition although the rear windows have been replaced with clear glazed contemporary aluminum sliding windows. The rear area behind the shop contains a delivery dock and refrigeration machinery accessible from Proudfoots Lane. The Bakery has been operated by Troy Ranahan since 2004. In 1946 it was a "Tailor" shop and earlier tenants have left traces of their occupancy under the floor, such as beer and soda bottles.

Shop Three (adjacent to the Austral Building) has

been leased since 2012 to Chris Mitchell, Chef/ Restaurateur of "South of the Border" Mexican Restaurant, but the shop has been operating as a Mexican restaurant for the last 20 years. Chris Mitchell worked there during that period as a chef before buying the business. The shop front has been modified over the years with the entry doors now clear glazed and set in timber frames with the original Art Deco leadlight window above the entry and the shop windows replaced with a timber panel painted with a name sign. The entry porch retains the original Art Deco ceramic floor tiles, harmonizing well with the Art Deco style of the building's façade. Internally the dining area retains the original timber flooring, cement rendered smooth walls with wide timber skirtings and the ceilings with the original plaster board finish, skylight and Art Deco decorative molding as in the other shops. The commercial kitchen at the rear of the dining area is of contemporary design in compliance with Health Department requirements. The rear area consists of a storage area, refrigeration equipment, an outdoor courtyard (wall-screened for dining privacy) and a car park and deliveries area accessed from the rear lane. Internally the restaurant is a pleasant mix of Mexican and Art Deco styles with a seating capacity for 35 in very pleasant surroundings.

From 1938–48, Shop Three was occupied by the original developer-owner, J.J. Maher, as his Realty Office. As the Marville Building was close to the NSW Department of Transport (only separated by an access lane linking Proudfoots Lane to Wollumbin Street (today's public car park)), J.J. Maher engaged an engineering firm to construct a Vehicle Weigh Bridge at the rear of his office. Vehicles to be registered were then weighed at his premises and proceeded to the Department of Transport armed with the Weight Certificate; a lucrative business move and very convenient for the general public.

J.J. Maher died around 1948, and his son Pat Maher took over the business. He leased the Weigh Bridge to J.H. Williams in 1948 but terminated the lease about 1952 with the decision to sell the Marville Building to Nick James. This was part of a decision by Pat Maher and his



Cornice and ceiling in Shop 2 (Photo: David Taylor)

brother Adrian to move all their business interests to the Gold Coast, establishing the very successful "Maher Realty" business in Coolangatta .

Nick James was a shareholder in the Austral Café. Nick left the Austral Café for Southport on the Gold Coast and worked in "Theodore's Café" for a number of years. He moved back to Murwillumbah and purchased the Marville Building from the Maher family in 1952-53, opening the "Ritz Café" in Shop Two. Although he eventually shut down the café and moved his family to Brisbane, the James family still owns the Marville Building to this day, maintaining it to a high standard.

Research References and Acknowledgements:

- Murwillumbah Historical Society Research Team: Tony Clark, Joan Cuthel, Max Boyd, Nick Gouliaev, Quentin Snow
- Patricia Tong, Mandy Yeo (Elders Realty), Lisa Hartshorne (Bowerbird Emporium), Chris Chrisostomos, Troy Ranahan (Bakery), Chris Mitchell (South of the Border – Mexican Restaurant)
- A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method. Sir Banister Fletcher, revised by R.A. Cordingley, the Athlone Press, 1961, London, England
- An Outline of European Architecture. Author: Nikolaus Pevsner, Pelican

*Thank you all for your wonderful assistance.
Nick Gouliaev, B. Arch. UNSW, 14 April 2014*

Did You Know?

This series of stories, selected and edited by Max Boyd, highlights the famous people, clubs, institutions and more who have had a connection with our district. This latest instalment features local icon Faith Bandler.



Faith Bandler (Photo: National Museum Australia)

Faith Bandler AC AM was born on 27 Sep 1918 (also known as Ida Lessing Faith Musing).

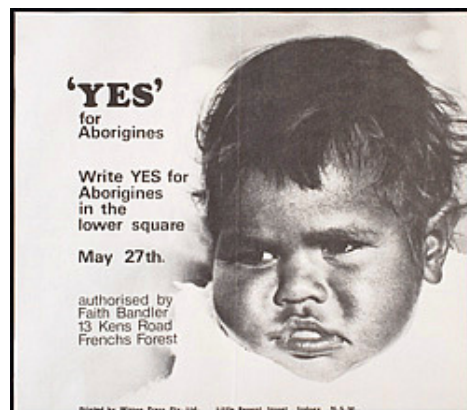
Her father, Peter Musing, had been blackbirded from Ambryn Island, part of Vanuatu, in 1883, at the age of about 13. He was sent to Mackay, Queensland before being sent to work on a sugar cane farm. He later escaped and married Bandler's

mother, a Scottish-Indian born woman from NSW.

Bandler grew up on a farm with her family at Tumbulgum NSW. Her link with the Tweed has been recorded by the erection of a plaque on the river bank at Tumbulgum by Tweed Shire Council. Faith attended the ceremony to acknowledge her as a distinguished leader and campaigner for both Indigenous and South Sea Islander people of Australia.

Her father died in 1924 when she was just 5 years old. In 1934 she moved to Sydney, where she worked as a dressmaker's apprentice. During the war she and her sister Kath served in the Australian Women's Land Army working on fruit farms. After the war, she moved to Kings Cross where she married Hans Bandler, a Jewish refugee from Vienna. They had one daughter Lilon in 1954 and fostered an aboriginal son Peter. Hans died in 2009.

As the General Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, formed in 1957, she led the campaign for a constitutional referendum to remove discriminatory provisions from the Constitution of Australia. The campaign resulted in the 1967 referendum succeeding in all six states, attracting nearly 91% support across the country, the highest level of support for any referendum before or since.



'Yes' for Aborigines poster authorised by Faith Bandler (Image: National Museum Australia)

Faith was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) on 11 Jun 1984. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Macquarie University in 1994. She was awarded the Human Rights Medal by the National Trust of Australia. She was named as one of the 100 inaugural Australian Living Treasures by the National Trust of Australia. She was appointed as a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) on 26 Jan 2009.

Beginning in 1974, Faith started campaigning for the rights of South Sea Islander Australians. In 1975, she visited Ambryn island from where her father had been kidnapped 92 years earlier.

Faith Bandler wrote and published 5 books

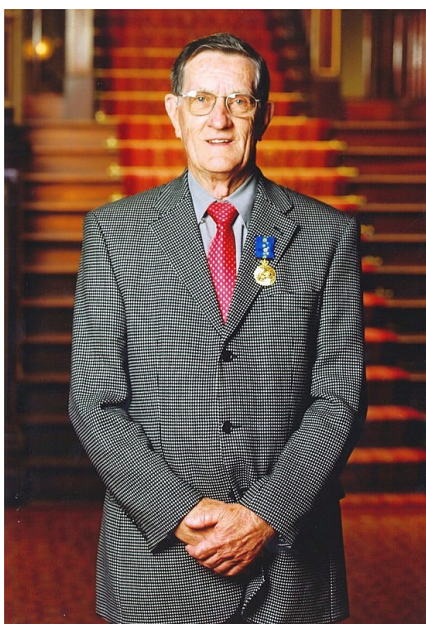
Reference: Wikipedia

The JJ Richards Story Part 5

Thanks to Idwall Richards, son of JJ Richards, for permission to feature this fascinating story recounting the history of the man, the family and the company. This is Part 5 (final) of the story, written by Idwall on 4 April 2006.

What began with 2 trucks - a new 1931 International (a replica of which remains in our stable at Chinderah) and a second-hand Dodge - and 3 men, has developed into a mini family empire collectively comprising in excess of 2000 vehicles, 2000 staff, and rendering approx. \$2 million domestic services weekly (or 400,000 daily) in addition to other associated waste/recycling services.

Our area of operation stretches from Adelaide to Cairns and all points in between.



Idwall Richards receiving his OAM in 2003. (Photo: Idwall Richards)

Our companies, of course, are still wholly family-owned and are managed and operated Australia-wide by Joe's grandsons and granddaughters (the 3 generation - soon to be the 4th generation), comprising people qualified in legal, engineering, accounting, computer systems, etc.

We have witnessed many changes in the industry over the 73 years. My personal involvement, like most of the family, spans from my school days to the current time, a period of some 60 years. I still attend work weekdays (it used to be 7 days) but my contribution has been dramatically diminished with the passing of time and the advent of technology, which has largely left me behind especially in administration. "No more flying by the seat of the pants", as we did in the good old days. Much of my time has been spent in the drawing office where for many years I designed and built all of our equipment, some of it not perfect, but

generally it has kept us competitive and in the forefront of collection and disposal methods of waste in its myriad forms.

It is a cause of enduring pride that our family has been able to provide a service to the people of the Tweed Shire for 73 years. Not one day lost because of industrial dispute. This feat is probably unmatched, or even unheard of anywhere else in the world, given the idiosyncrasies and complexity of local Government.

Awards

The advances that we have made in equipment and services for the waste industry have won us many



Innovative 1990s overhead loader (Photo: Idwall Richards)

awards & recognition, the latest of which was a Tweed Business Excellence Award (BEX Award) for Manufacturing. Normally modest in our congratulations, we take this opportunity to point out a few of our successes:

- Number 1,3 and 4 places out of all Councils in a South Australian EPA study of waste services
- A commendation in the National Awards for Local Government for Baw Baw Shire Council's SCORR service.
- 1st place - Waste Reduction Award - Inner Sydney Region
- 1st place - Waste Minimisation Award - Inner Sydney Region
- 2nd place - Overall Waste Reduction Award - Greater Sydney Region

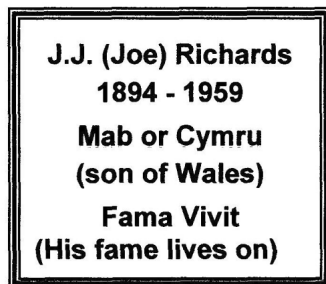
Although a lot of Solo's development is driven by staff research, we also have the opportunity to improve services when customers request custom-made equipment.

We specialise in bringing the future of waste technology to your home or business, whether it be through developments or designing & engineering your specially designed equipment. If you were to ask me what I have enjoyed the most out of running a successful business for so long, I would have to say, it is the pleasure of working with & providing gainful employment for a lot of people and giving them job security virtually during

their whole working life. In some instances we have had three generations of a given family working with us at the one time.

We as an organisation are less than two years away from our 75th Birthday. It is one I look forward to with relish as it would be too much to expect to be around for our 100th.

The ode to my father, our founder, is carved in stone at our Chinderah centre & reads:



(Mab 'o' Kimru)

(Farma Vivit)

Mystery Objects

Whenever space in the newsletter allows we intend to publish historical photos or historical items where we hope readers will help us "fill in the gaps" around the photos' details - please write in if you can help or would like to be sent a larger version of this image.

Can you help the Museum with any information about the items in these photos? We know they are associated with the dairy industry but not much else!



Mystery Item - 37076_a



Mystery Item - 37076_b

Return to the Museum

The exciting Tweed Regional Museum - Murwillumbah refurbishment and expansion project is nearly complete. This award-winning project has been delivered on time and on budget due to the hard work and multi-tasking skills of Museum Director Judy Kean and her Museum staff and dedicated volunteers and full credit must go to them for the excellent outcome achieved.



Lovely Art Nouveau window in the refurbished and expanded museum (Photo: courtesy of David Petley)

Excitingly for the Society, our time in temporary offices at Bray Park is coming to an end and we expect to move back into our refurbished Research Centre in the Museum in late July or early August (exact date TBA). The Research Centre will be in our same, familiar front room where our research and other work took place before the Museum upgrade project began and has been fully fitted out with new furniture and equipment thanks to great ongoing support from Tweed Shire Council via the Museum.

While the management and operation of the Museum and collection is now fully in the hands of Council's Museum staff, Society members remain very closely engaged with the Museum, its exhibits, activities and operation. Indeed, we are now able even more to pursue research and other coordinated activities across any relevant area, either together with the Museum or independently.

To this end, we are currently drawing up a schedule of staffing for the Research Centre and are polling members about their interest in participation in a very broad range of engaging and challenging current and planned activities and training opportunities.

All members should have recently received a form in the mail to capture this information. Please complete and return these to the Society as soon

as possible so we can best understand where your interests, skills, talents and aspirations lie in choosing among the Society's activities.

Any reader interested in joining us in this exciting period for the Society please contact the Secretary on (02) 6672 3337 for more information and to receive a copy of the member data form.

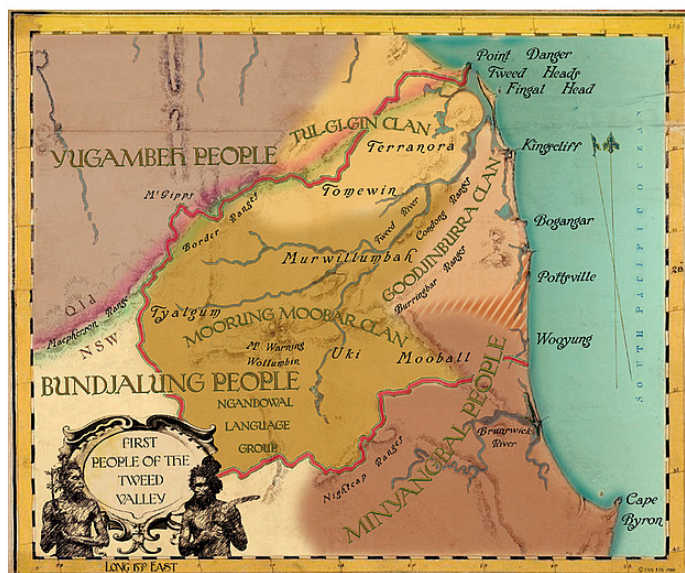
Society Web Update

The content on the Society's website continues to be updated to reflect the latest developments in the Society and the Museum:

<http://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

The latest updates include a link to a comprehensive new page on Tweed indigenous heritage written for the Museum by Ian Fox in consultation with Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and a new form to join the mailing list to receive this newsletter by email each quarter, placed on the "Newsletter" page.

Please visit the updated website and don't forget to "like" the Society's Facebook page to be automatically kept informed when new information is posted about things like activities, meetings and new editions of Timelines.



Map, First People of the Tweed Valley
Courtesy of Ian Fox

A map of the lands of the First People of the Tweed Valley, courtesy of Ian Fox in consultation with Tweed Shire Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee.



"I've always been intrigued by the way history works, the way we decide what is mentioned."

Rita Dove



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ABOUT THE MUSEUM: Established in 2004 by the three local Historical Societies, and the Tweed Shire Council, the Tweed Regional Museum is one collection and one museum in three special locations; Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki. In 2012 The Tweed Regional Museum at Murwillumbah entered an exciting period of development involving construction of a new addition. For further information about the Tweed Regional Museum please visit:

<http://museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/> or contact the Museum Director on (02) 6670 2400.

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY:

Phone: (02) 6672 3337

Web: <http://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

Email: enquiries@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au

While the Murwillumbah Museum is closed for extension and renovation until 30 Aug 2014 the Society's temporary office address is 33-35 Kyogle Rd, Bray Park NSW 2484. (The Museum's other branches at Tweed Heads and Uki remain open as usual during this period.)

COMMITTEE:

<http://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/about.htm>

