

TIMELINES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Murwillumbah Historical Society

July 2015 Vol. 4 No. 1



Welcome

Welcome to the July 2015 *Timelines*, the newsletter of the Murwillumbah Historical Society. This issue sees an update to our masthead photo of the Museum building, reflecting changes and improvements over the last few years.

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:

- Lest We Forget - Clive Russell Bray
- Historic Buildings of Murwillumbah - the Court House Part 2
- Robert Quirk and Acid Sulfate Soils Part 2
- The Museum building is 100 years old!
- Mystery Object and New Acquisition
- Rawards and Jays
- Bus Trip to Ipswich
- Guided Town Historical Walks
- Roll of Honour
- Society and Contact Information

Lest We Forget

To mark the centenary of World War One 1914-1918, Tony Clark is compiling a short article honouring the memory of our fallen for each *Timelines* until October 2018. In this edition we remember the story of Clive Russell Bray. His diaries have been passed down through the family and have been kindly lent to Tweed Regional Museum by Beverley Fairley.



Private C.R. Bray (Photo: B. Fairley)

Clive Russell Bray (Service No. 26A) was born at Kynnumboon, Murwillumbah in July 1888 to Joshua and Rosalie Gertrude Bray being the youngest of 13 children. He attended Brisbane Grammar School, and had been working in the Commercial Bank for 5 years before becoming a surveyor's

assistant. Clive enlisted on 22 Aug 1914 (just 18 days after England declared war on Germany) at Enoggera. According to his military record, he was 26 years old, 5ft 9½in (1.765m) tall, weighing 152lbs (69kg) with blue eyes and brown hair.



WE WANT YOUR OLD PHOTOS!

If you have or come into possession of any old, family or historic photos please don't bin them; donate them instead! Please contact the Museum (02) 6670 2493, email trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Clive was assigned to the 5th Company Army Service Corps, 1st Light Horse Brigade Train as a Private/Driver.



The Omrah (Photo: Australian War Memorial)

He embarked for Egypt with his unit from Brisbane on the "Omrah" on 24 Sep 1914. After arrival in Egypt, his company made horse delivery trips by ship to Cape

Helles from their bases in Alexandria and later Lemnos. Clive was then transferred to the 9th Battalion on 13 Feb 1916, The Battalion embarked from Alexandria on 27 March to Marseilles, France where it arrived on 3 April. They then proceeded to the Somme, on the Western Front.



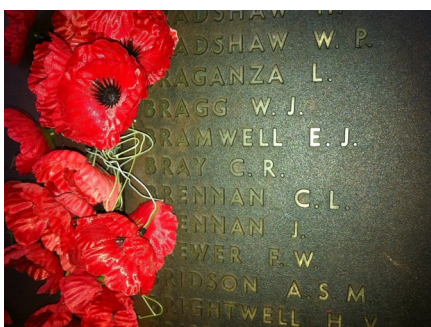
Postcard of the Pyramids sent home by Clive (Thanks: B. Fairley)



Fricourt in the winter of 1916-17 (Photo: Australian War Memorial)

Less than three weeks after arriving Clive was wounded in action, receiving gunshot wounds to his back and arm. He was admitted to Lahore General

Hospital, Calais, France on 23 April, subsequently being invalided to England on 5 May 1916. During this recovery time, Clive applied to the Royal Flying Corp (RFC) and was granted a temporary commission on 16 August. However, he had



Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel 55 (Photo: Tony Clark)

After returning to his unit, Clive was wounded for a second time



The grave at Netley Military Cemetery (Photo: B. Fairley)

on 25 Feb 1917 on the Somme at Fricourt, France. He was taken to the 1st Casualty Clearing Station at Rouen, suffering from gunshot wounds to his left leg, hand and chest. Here his leg was amputated before he was moved to No.3 Stationary Hospital at Rouen. He then was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 7 March.

Clive Russell Bray finally succumbed to his wounds on 13 Mar 1917 age 28. He was buried at Netley Military Cemetery with his sister in law in attendance. The Australian War Memorial has memorialised his name on panel 55 of the Roll Of Honour, and on the Murwillumbah Cenotaph in Tumbulgum Road.

References:

1. Australian War Memorial <http://www.awm.gov.au/>
2. National Archives of Australia <http://www.naa.gov.au/>
3. Beverley Fairley Family research collection

Murwillumbah Court House

Thanks to Nick Gouliaev for this story. To allow the maximum detail possible to be included, we will run this story in parts; this is Part 2 and continues the story of this historic Main Street icon.

The night of 15 Sep 1907 is very memorable in the history of Murwillumbah as it marks the destruction of a large part of Main Street in the calamitous Red Sunday fire (for the full story of the fire, see the Society's publication "Red Sunday").



Next day photo of the ruins of the pre-1907 Court House (Photo: TRM Ref M14-22)

66 buildings including the Court House, Police Station and Police Stables were badly damaged or destroyed. All police records were also destroyed and many law breakers were able to start a new life without any past police criminal records.

The police lockup precinct roof was destroyed however, the police continued work regardless, with the promise that the prisoners were quite safe. Sergeant Kane (senior officer at that time) set up office in a tent among the ruins of the Court House. After the fire court proceedings were conducted in the Protestant Hall and perhaps also in the partially damaged Police Stable.

Later that year the Attorney-General wrote to the Murwillumbah Municipal Council that preliminary plans and budget were being prepared for the construction of a new Court House and Police Precinct with Police quarters. Council wished the new complex to be located on a new site away from the Main Street however the State Government insisted the Main Street location be retained.

Council excavated the site (sloping land at the bottom of Reservoir Hill) as far as Broadway (Queen Street) to bring the new complex down to street level and so be more easily accessible by the public and also to improve the street alignment to that which we see today.



The newly-rebuilt 1909 (current) Court House gracing Main Street, and now at street level (Photo: TRM Collection)

The design plans became a reality when the NSW Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon released his documentation in 1908 for tendering by selected builders. The successful tenderer was D.M. Mitchell of Redfern, Sydney who took possession of the site on 5 Dec 1908. Construction began on the brick buildings in Federation style, consisting of the Court House, Police living quarters and Police Station with lockup cells.

The Court House is separated from the Police Station precinct by a driveway with the Police living quarters (a 2-storey house) next to the driveway, locking on to the actual Police Station with cells at rear. Behind the cells is an enclosed courtyard, paved for vehicles, and a brick stables at the rear boundary of the Police precinct. Originally this enclosed courtyard extended and included the area at the rear of the Court House but today a fence divides the two areas.

Walter Liberty Vernon is historically referred to as one of the leading NSW exponents of the Federation style. His style of Federation design is sometimes referred to as 'free style', being acutely aware of a suitable environmental response to the climatic conditions of the project's geographical location.



Some of the charming timber highlights enhancing the 1909 complex (Photo: Nick Goulliaev)

Many buildings described as Federation Style were built during the reign of Edward VII (1901-1910) or later, but still in the manner of that period, and so could be described as Edwardian. Although there are many different forms of Federation buildings, the common thread is that they all express a patriotic love of Australia in a simple and unsophisticated, non-aggressive or jingoistic expression of emotional attachment. Australian motifs are found in interior plaster work, pressed metal motifs ceiling panels, in decorative glass, external terracotta ornaments or cast cement as well as fretwork of timber to roof gables or linking veranda timber columns with beautiful timber fretwork, or window protection with mini-skillion, roofs supported by timber fretwork brackets etc. - the number of these various motifs is endless. It is particularly interesting that nationalistic sentiments should have emerged through this architecture and no other form of architecture in Australia demonstrates such a manifestation of patriotic feeling and pride. The symbolism in this style parallels the development of the Federation movement and, after 1901, coincided with Australia's first years of nationhood. The Court House is an outstanding example of Federation Style of Architecture in Murwillumbah.

Construction was completed in 1909. The buildings were designed with wide eaves and large, high windows in response to the local climate. The Court House has a symmetrical floor plan with the centrally located Courtroom featuring a ceiling 7.5m high giving an impression of being two stories high when viewed from the outside. It is flanked on both sides by lower height building wings, giving the impression of being single-storey, and containing offices for lawyers, consultation rooms, jury rooms, a reception/ registrar area and other rooms. The ceiling is 4.5m throughout these areas. Externally these areas have roofed verandas as weather protection to entrances to the administration areas before entering the actual Court room.



The 1909 Court House showing the "single" and "double" story sections (Photo: Nick Gouliaev)

All external and internal walls are constructed from locally made bricks, laid in stretcher bond with flush struck mortar joints. Additional decoration to the walls is an applied decorative coat of pebble dash stucco panels, to all walls, painted, starting at 2.1m as measured from the floor level, extending up the wall to the underside of roof eaves. The veranda columns are also made from bricks, giving the visual impression of a colonnaded entry with each column decorated with the same stucco panel-bands starting 2.1 m from floor level but only 5 bricks in height.

The Courtroom walls protrude above the roofs of the "single-storey" portions of the building with the south wall divided into 3 panels with 2 bricks wide, face brick "flush columns". The panel surfaces are finished with pebble dash stucco surface finish, facing Main Street with attached concrete-cast letters and numbers, with (first panel) COURT, (second panel) 19R09 with a crown over the year numbers and (third panel) HOUSE. Underneath the second panel is a single-storey portion of the



Some of the special wall and window features on the 1909 Court House (Photo: Nick Gouliaev)

building comprising the main public entry into the foyer of the Courtroom, protruding from the main body of the building, separating the two verandas on either side, all facing Main Street. The wall of this extension is face brick with the upper portion of the wall stucco cement rendered to the underside of the gable roof over, with a half round clear storey window formed arch over the window is face brick with "key stone" at the apex of the arch. Glazing is set into small timber panes typical of the times. Either side of the gable wall, projecting above the roof, is a further decoration consisting of three bricks wide, 15 bricks high, cement rendered columns, capped off with concrete orbs.

To be continued next edition...

Robert Quirk - Growing Sugar Cane on Acid Sulfate Soil

Research, analysis and story by Max Boyd. To allow the maximum detail possible to be included, we will run this story in parts; this is Part 2 and outlines Robert's approach in dealing with this serious farming issue.

LASER LEVELLING TO DEAL WITH ACID SULFATE SOILS

Dr. Melville in a recent letter to the writer said "monitoring of the water table beneath Hawken's sugar cane showed that it was not the field drains but it was the crop's evapotranspiration that controlled the water table elevation (see Wilson et al 1999). Another important outcome from our research at McLeod's Creek was that the bulk of the acidity discharge did not come from across the whole surface of the floodplain, but mainly from within just a couple of metres of the field drains (see Kinsela and Melville 2004)" and "of course, Robert has adopted as standard practice many other important and innovative management regimes (e.g. Hill planting; green cane harvesting;



Robert during a field trip to El Salvador (Photo: Robert Quirk)

trash retention and incorporation; leguminous break crops; GPS farming)."

Having decided that neutralisation of the acid under the soil was impossible because of the sheer volume, Robert worked with Professor Ian White from CSIRO and Professor Mike Melville from UNSW to work out how he could contain the acid in the landscape. The first step was laser levelling of the paddocks. The natural slope was away from the drains, so he had to turn it around. The laser levelling was done to a 0.6% gradient. So ground water runs down to the drains and out through the pump. Laser levelling has been the most expensive remediation work done by the farmers, but they saw a return from the year it was done. Now all farmers are laser levelling, liming and all have a drainage management plan.

BUILDING UP THE MOUNDS

Robert decided to mound up the soil and grow the cane above the surface, between the compacted tracks, to create a micro environment. The spaces between the rows are highly compressed by tractor traffic and impervious to water. He plants and cultivates using GPS systems. The top of the mound is the only bit he works. The fertiliser goes on there. When the water table rises, it has to pass through the lime in the mound and this neutralising medium captures the acid and nitrous oxide. The soil in his mounds has oxygen in it, so it improves his soil and reduces greenhouse emissions. Using this system, he has been able to cut his fertiliser use by about 50%. The mounds are heavily limed at 10 tonnes per hectare which results in a pH level of about 6.0 and this has encouraged earthworms to establish.

Liming has been expensive but he now has enough calcium in the system to grow 10 crops but all the carbonate is used up neutralising the acidity. It took him about 5 years to get the system

to work and it cost a lot of money, but the results have been worth it.

TRASH RETENTION REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS AND IS GOOD FOR THE SOIL

Robert does not burn his cane. Instead, he leaves the trash on the ground after harvesting. The scientists who did research on his farm, helped him to work out the processes of trash retention and mounding. It meant a lot of experimentation and some failures but he eventually got it right. The latest research has shown that 50% of all the available nitrogen to the crop comes from the breakdown of organic matter, so if organic matter is kept on the ground, much less fertiliser is required. Sugar cane has big biomass - 100 to 150 tonnes per hectare. CSIRO found microbes in his fields that were not present in fields that had been burned.

BREAK CROP OF SOYBEANS TO KEEP SOIL FERTILITY

He grows cane for 4 years in a paddock and then one year of soybeans to break up the monoculture. He gets as much return on 4 years of cane and 1 year soybeans as he would off 5 years of cane. He doesn't need to fertilise when planting cane after the beans and they have a beneficial effect on the soil. He does minimum to zero tillage which allows him to harvest in much wetter conditions with less damage to the soil or crop.

USING ZERO TILLAGE AND CONTROLLING WEEDS CHEMICALLY

Robert used to cultivate every week which amounted to about 16 or 17 times a year. He used to go over the whole farm destroying the organic matter and killing weeds. He has now adopted a system of zero tillage and the only cultivation is raking the tops off the stool (the stumps of the cut cane) so he can add the fertiliser directly to where it gives the best result and raises the temperature in the mound. He now controls weeds by chemical spraying which has resulted in a major reduction in tractor hours and energy use.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE HE HAS MADE IN HIS 50 YEARS OF FARMING.

To be continued next edition...

100 Years Old!

The Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah building is 100 years old this year, and has been

the Society's home since 1984. There will be more to come on this important milestone but here's a brief architectural summary from Nick Gouliaev's story in the first edition of Timelines in July 2012:

"The architectural style of the building is a delicate combination of Colonial Georgian and Federation with a splash of Art Deco to glazing of windows and associated corbelling to roof eaves with wall corners featuring Cement rendered corner Columns, finished off with rough textured surface, painted...."



One of the Museum's lovely original windows (Photo: David Petley)

The full original story (along with all past editions of Timelines) is available on our website or drop in to our Research Centre at the Museum and ask for a free copy.

Mystery Photo

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.

SOLVED!

Thanks to all responders, particularly Ian Fox who was able to pinpoint the location of Cobaki Creek Falls (on private land) featured last edition.



Can you help the Museum with any information about the location of this edition's mystery photo (TRM Ref: MUS2015.49.122)? It was found in with a number of other photos, all of which were local, but no one knows what town this is....

Recent Acquisition

We will regularly include photos and information on interesting new items the Museum has acquired recently. Come and see all the interesting displays at the Museum.

This blue plastic badge is marked:

"Tumbulgum Ferry 1886 – 1986" and was produced to commemorate the last day of operation of the Tumbulgum Ferry on 20th Dec 1986. Donated by Skip Johnson, Ref: MUS2015.60.



Rawards & Jays

This interesting story around another of Murwillumbah's long-term Main Street businesses comes from new contributors Bob & Barbara Haywood with input also from Max Boyd.



The staff in 1930 (left to right) Heather Barnes, Peg Burke, Minnie West, Teeny Riley, Amy Lovelock, Maisey McKenney, Winnie Lane, Arthur Raward, Jack Raward, Pat Thorley, Ray Stanford (Photo: Cameron Raward)

Murwillumbah has had a hard core of businesses that have been trading in the town for generations. One of these, Rawards and Jays, currently trading as Rawards Mens Wear, commenced in 1925 when John Thomas Raward and his brother Arthur, who had moved to Murwillumbah in 1923, opened a menswear and drapery store in Main Street, where Tweed Fruit Exchange is today in 2015. They traded as "Raward Brothers". John

managed the menswear and Arthur the drapery section.

A short time after they started, they bought out "Jays" two drapery stores on the other side of the street and began trading there as "Rawards and Jays". The only change since then has been the name change to "Rawards Mens Wear".

In 1936 they sold their drapery section to "Glynns" (where Dinki Di Discounts is in 2015). Part of the agreement of sale was that Glynns would sell only drapery and Rawards and Jays would sell only men's wear.

Three generations of Rawards and 90 years later, this store and its owners have played a significant role in the life of Murwillumbah. Their store was widely known throughout the northern rivers and enjoyed a strong and loyal clientele because of the variety and quality of their stock.



The staff in 1948 (left to right) Marg Raward, Elaine Condon, John Faulks, Bert Connors, John T Raward, Tom Sweetnam, Bruce Raward, Jack Raward (Photo: Cameron Raward)

From the sound foundation established by his father, son Jack took over the business when he returned from army service in 2/25th BN in which he had fought in the Markham Valley campaign in Lae, New Guinea and the Balikpapan campaign in Borneo.

Jack Raward was one of a small band of civic fathers who approached Tweed Shire Council with a request that council levy a special rate over the business centre of town for the purpose of creating a fund with which they could promote the town. Council agreed and this rate was put to great purpose in promoting Murwillumbah. Jack was supported by Pat Glynn, Darcy Stainlay, Harry Williams, Frank Cook and others. They administered the funds by forming the Murwillumbah Retail Traders Association. The

town profited greatly by the visionary efforts of Jack Raward and his colleagues. Jack was an optimistic and staunch advocate for the town in which he had lived during his lifetime.

In the 1950s the following people worked in this modern store: Tom Sweetnam, John Faulks, Jeff Hartman, Bruce Raward, Jack Raward, Bert Connors, Stan Kercher, Bob Haywood, Margaret Raward and Heather Hayes.

Upon his retirement in the early 1980s, Jack's son Cameron took over under his father's guidance until Jack's death in 1995. Cameron has had to contend with a vastly different trading era to that during which his grandfather and father had been able to build up the business. Time has brought huge changes, but to their credit, Cameron and Sarah continue to carry on the Raward tradition.

Bus Trip to Ipswich



Following on from our successful trip to Ballina and Alstonville recently, our next bus tour will be Sunday 16th August 2015 to the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage

Centre and The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich. Qld.

Cost: \$50 per person includes the bus, entry at both Amberley and the Rail Museum and also Sandra's *special* Morning Tea. Take your own lunch or purchase at the Rail Museum. Members and friends most welcome. Departs 8am from the old Murwillumbah Railway Station.

Please contact Sandra Jones to book a place or for further details on (02) 6672 2746 - bookings are required; deadline Monday, 3rd August..

Please share this with your friends as these trips are a great day out!

Guided Town Walks

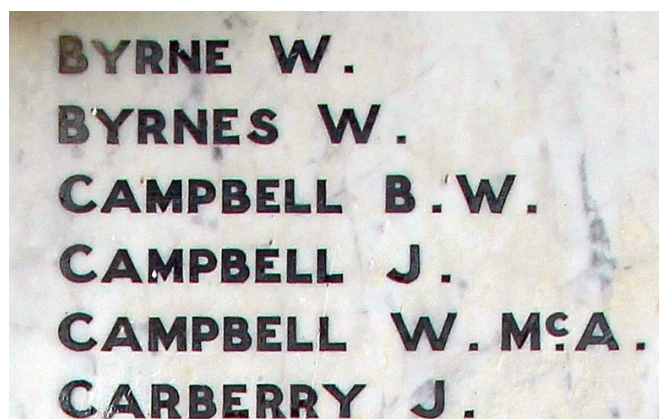
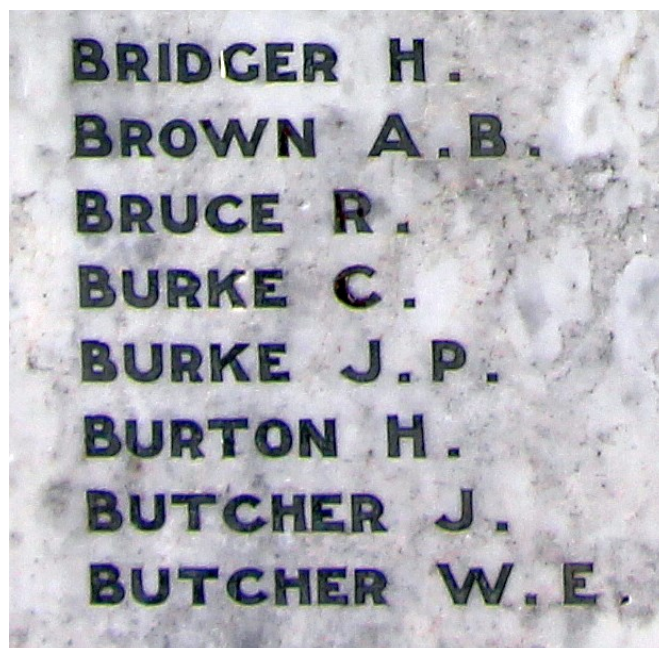
Don't forget our guided town-centre historical walks, led by Tony Clark, leave Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah (2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah) at 1pm on the first Saturday of every month.



The walks take only an hour, cover a bit over 1km and are interesting, great gentle exercise and great value at just a gold coin donation to help the Society in its work. **Please tell your friends about this new activity!**

Roll of Honour

The Murwillumbah Cenotaph lists 218 local fallen from World War One. We will publish the names of a group of them in each Timelines until the October 2018 edition. Here are the third fourteen names listed.



Lest we forget.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY: Formed 16 March 1959, the Society's aim is to research, preserve and promote the rich and unique history of the town of Murwillumbah and its surrounds in the picturesque Tweed River Valley of far northern New South Wales. The Society operates out of our Research Centre in the Tweed Regional Museum's historic Murwillumbah facility and acknowledges the ongoing, generous support of Tweed Shire Council.

CONTACT US: Phone: (02) 6670 2273

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

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Email: enquiries@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au

Street: C/- Tweed Regional Museum, 2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Street: PO Box 373, Murwillumbah NSW 2484



ABOUT THE MUSEUM: The Tweed Regional Museum is a Tweed Shire Council community facility, established in 2004, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Tweed Shire Council and the Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki and South Arm Historical Societies. It is one museum that operates across three branch locations; Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki, and in association with these three local Historical Societies. The three locations connect the Tweed Shire from the coast to the mountains, providing a unique journey into the history, people and places of the majestic Tweed Valley.

For information about the Tweed Regional Museum please visit: <http://museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/> or phone on (02) 6670 2493.