

TIMELINES

The Quarterly Journal of the Murwillumbah Historical Society Inc

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Welcome

Welcome to the 21st edition of *Timelines*, Volume 6 No 1. To celebrate our figurative coming of age, *Timelines* now has an International Standard Serial Number [ISSN 2208-1908]. The international ISSN portal lists the ISSN of over 1.6m serials published throughout the world.

In this edition of *Timelines*, our continuing Lest We Forget series by Society members Sandra Jones and Marie Fletcher features soldier Martin Mary Reynolds.

We continue with the history of the McDonald family of the well-known jersey dairy stud of Kendonvale, before delving deep into one of the main reasons for the development of the dairy industry on the Tweed, paspalum grass and its influence on the local economy over the first 75 years of the 20th century.

Finally, it is fitting that, with the recent decision by Tweed Shire Council to expand the water storage capacity of Clarrie Hall dam, our Society Vice President Max Boyd AM presents his recollections of the man with whom he worked closely for many years and after whom the dam was named, Clarrie Hall.

We hope you enjoy this milestone edition of *Timelines*.

Max Willoughby, *Timelines* Editor

The contents of this edition are:

- Lest We Forget – Martin Reynolds
- The McDonald family of Kendonvale
- Guided town walks [advertisement]
- Paspalum and the Tweed economy
- Clarence [Clarrie] Henry Hall AM
- Roll of Honour
- Society and contact information

We want to copy your old photos

If you have come into possession of any old family or historic photos, please lend them to us to copy!

Please contact the museum on 02 6670 2493 or email us at trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Lest We Forget

To mark the centenary of World War One [1914-1918], each edition of *Timelines* until Oct 2018 will present a short article honouring the memory of our fallen whose names are engraved on the Murwillumbah War Memorial. This edition focuses on Martin Reynolds of Murwillumbah.

Martin Mary Reynolds was born in Murwillumbah on 11 Oct 1896, the son of Patrick and Mary Reynolds of Hospital Hill. Martin was the eldest in the family, followed by Patrick, Kathleen, Mary and Jim.



Martin Mary Reynolds [Courtesy family records]

Martin Reynolds enlisted in Murwillumbah on 27 Dec 1915, trained at Enoggera camp in Brisbane, and embarked on *HMAT A49 Seang Choon* on 19 Sep 1916 as a private with regimental number 2372, attached to the 47th Battalion, 5th Reinforcement. They disembarked in Plymouth England on 9 Dec 1916 after which he marched into the 12th Training Battalion at No 13 Camp, Codford. Here he was made a substantive corporal and thereafter attended a rifle course at the School of Musketry at Tidworth where

he acquired a working knowledge of the Lewis Gun. On a personal note, Martin wrote to his parents on 7 Mar 1917 describing his first visit to London: *I have just arrived back from a very interesting holiday in London. My trip lasted only four days, but I had a really good time. Went to the Australian Headquarters on reaching the city, and were then dismissed. We visited Parliament House, Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace, Drury Lane Theatre. On Sunday morning we went to Mass at Westminster Cathedral.* He continued: *On Monday we spent the day "doing" the Tower of London. We only just had time to run over other places, but having heard so much about the Tower, I decided to do it properly. It would take too long to go into all the details regarding the Tower, it must suffice for me to say that the visit was most interesting, and I shall describe it fully on my return home which judging by opinion in England, will not be very long now.* He also explained that the biggest shock he had in London was seeing women in public bars, standing up and calling for a beer, and in restaurants women were sitting back smoking and blowing great clouds into the air.

Around the same time Martin sent his sister Mary a piece of stone in a Warlock brand tobacco tin, writing that it was *just a piece of an old Roman fort on Salisbury Plain.* He explained that he thought she might like it for a curio, and signed the letter *Mart.*

Corporal Reynolds embarked for Le Havre, France in May 1917 and was taken on strength with the 15th Bn in the 4th Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division of the AIF. The 15th Bn was relieved from its' position on the Douve River near Messines in Belgium and moved to a camp near Ploegsteert. On 17 Jun the soldiers were marched out to La Trompe Cabaret camp. The 4th Division occupied the front line near Warneton and La Basse Ville in Belgium between June and July.

Martin Reynolds was treated at the 4th Field Ambulance with trench feet before being transferred to the 11th General Hospital at Dannes (on the coast of the English Channel), then to the 6th Convalescent Depot at Etaples, France. He did not return to the 15th Bn until 27 Aug, by which time his unit was in the trenches in the rain near Messines. Martin rejoined the Battalion in the field on 1 Sep.

The Battle of Polygon Wood was the I ANZAC Corp component of a larger British and dominion operation staged as part of the third battle of Ypres. This operation was the second of the 'Plumer battles', a series of well planned, limited advances supported by large volumes of artillery, masterminded by the British General Herbert Plumer. The name 'Polygon Wood' derived from a young plantation forest that lay along I ANZAC's axis of advance.

The attack was scheduled to begin on 26 Sep 1917 but was almost derailed by an enemy attack on the British Corps to the south. In addition, Australian troops of the 15th Brigade, preparing for their attack a

day earlier, took part in fending off the enemy; their advance the next day began.



Australian soldiers lay a plank road at Polygon Wood [AWM]

Consequently, although the British and dominion advance began on schedule on 26 Sep, with the 4th and 5th Division on the left and right respectively, taking the lead in the I ANZAC sector, it began with some uncertainty as to their security. The infantry advanced behind a heavy artillery barrage – the noise of this was compared to a roaring bushfire – and the enemy launched several counter-attacks. The battle cost 5,770 Australian casualties, including Martin Reynolds.

The records indicate that he was killed in action on 27 Sep 1917, with no known grave, at age 20. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Along with 136 other Australians with unknown graves from the Battle of Polygon Wood, his Commemoration details are marked on The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 17) in Belgium.



The Menin Gate [AWM]

In 1936 the City of Ypres presented the Australian War Memorial in Canberra with two medieval stone lions which now stand at the entrance of the AWM in memory of those who fought in the Ypres campaign.

Sources:

The late Stan Hall's and the late Pat Reynolds' [relatives] references to family letters; AWM: Battle of Polygon Wood; AWM military service records; The AIF Project; History of the Fifteenth Battalion; Tweed Regional Museum.

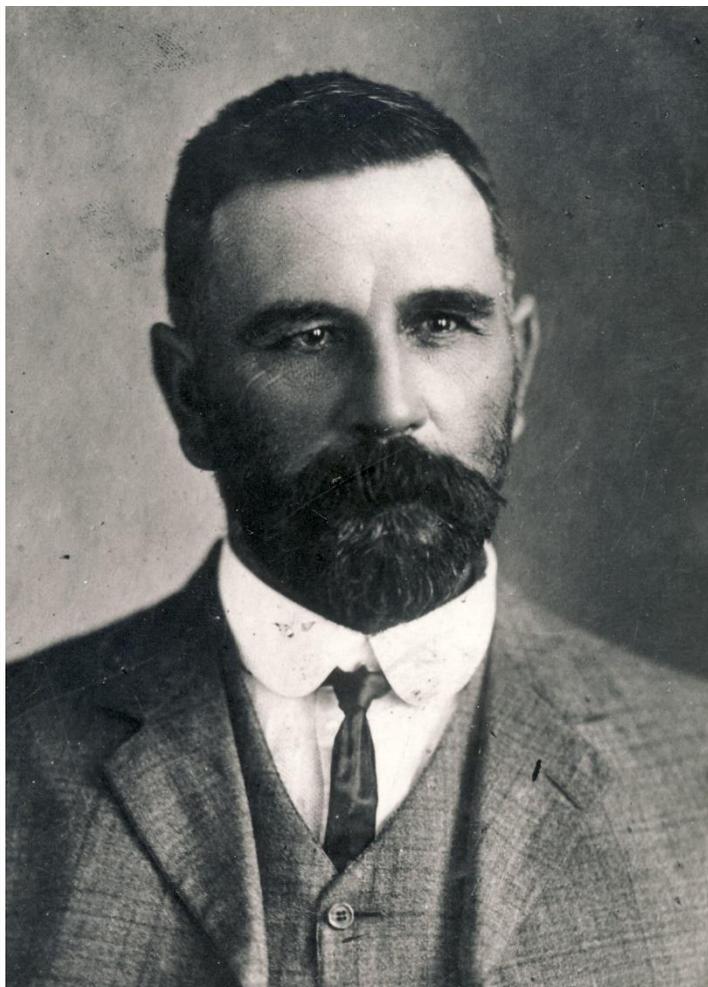
By Sandra Jones & Marie Fletcher

The McDonalds of Kendonvale

South and west of Murwillumbah, the various properties from the Rous River, through Frangela Reserve and extending east below Murwillumbah High School from Byangum Road to the Tweed River were all once part of the famous Kendonvale jersey stud, operated by the McDonald family. Kendonvale still exists, although smaller than it once was. This history of the family and the properties was provided to Max Boyd AM by Ken and Noel McDonald, and has been extended and edited for publication by Max Willoughby.

In Jan 1909, Archibald and Bridget McDonald arrived in the Tweed River district with their eight children [six daughters and two sons¹] and settled on a property of 186 acres they had acquired at Crystal Creek, nine miles from Murwillumbah. The property, which they named Fairview, was cleared and had a small residence on it. It had originally been selected in 1903 by Mr Alex McIlhatton.

Archibald, christened Archibald Joseph, was born on 23 Oct 1862 at Nimmitabel on the Monaro plains of southern NSW, the fourth son of Samuel and Catherine [nee Campbell] McDonald. His father Samuel had arrived in Australia from Scotland on the *Midlothian* in 1837 with his parents Duncan and Catherine McDonald.



Archibald McDonald

Archibald's wife Bridget was the second child of Christopher and Harriett [nee Alcock] Farrell, and was also born at Nimmitabel on 19 May 1863. Bridget's father Christopher had arrived in Australia from

Ireland on the *Anglia* in 1850, accompanied by his mother, who had come out to join her convict husband, previously transported in 1837 aboard *Calcutta* for stealing potatoes. Harriet, Bridget's mother, had arrived in Australia with her parents Frederick and Marian Alcock, on *Epiminandos* in 1854.

Archibald became a dairy farmer and butcher and farmed several properties in the Nimmitabel, Cobargo and Tumut districts. He was 22 years old when he married Bridget at Cobargo on 27 Jul 1885. Twenty-three years later, in 1908, they joined the large migration of south coasters to the northern rivers of NSW, to seek greener pastures, and probably a warmer climate.



Bridget McDonald née Farrell

At Crystal Creek, while running a butchery in conjunction with the dairy, Archibald also became a cattle dealer, making several excursions to the Richmond River district to purchase springing dairy heifers to supply the rapidly expanding dairy herds on the Tweed. Three years after their arrival on the Tweed, the family in 1912 won a land ballot for 250 acres at Doon Doon which, after clearing and the construction of a residence, became a second dairy run in conjunction with the farm at Crystal Creek.

Two years later, in 1914, a further 131 acres of land almost adjoining Murwillumbah was purchased from a Mr Gray. The family moved to this new property, named Oxley, on which they conducted a large, by the standards of the day, hand milking dairy. The

dairy and butchery at Crystal Creek were progressively closed and the property was operated as a dry run in conjunction with the two dairies.

Archibald died in 1918 from a heart attack, and the three properties were bequeathed to his estate, with his wife Bridget retaining a life interest. Prior to the marriage of her eldest son Frank, Bridget moved to live in Murwillumbah where she led an active life, except for her last five years when ill health kept her bed ridden. She died aged 95 in 1960. Both the sons, Frank and Edward, and four daughters remained on the Tweed to rear their families while Harriet returned to Tumut to live and raise her family, and Eileen lived and reared her family in Lismore.

The eldest son Frank leased and managed the properties and, with his wife Angela, lived on Oxley in a new home built for them when they married in 1925. Here they raised their family of six sons and daughters: John Kenny [Ken] born 1926 [d 2016]; Noel Joseph born 1929; Francis Brian [Brian] born 1930 [d 1994]; Mary Colleen born 1932; Patrick Gerard born 1934; and Noreen Ann born 1936.

The Doon Doon farm was sold in 1934 and the two remaining properties, Oxley and Fairview at Crystal Creek, were managed from circa 1937 by Frank and his sons as the well-known Kendonvale jersey stud. The name came from a combination of Angela's maiden name of Kenny, and McDonald.



Frank and [Sarah] Angela McDonald née Kenny

In the early 1940s Oxley was enlarged by the purchase of 78 acres of land from the Kenny and Conaghan families, extending the property and giving it a frontage to the Tweed river. With a further

purchase of 25 acres from Jack Campbell in the late 1940s, the family properties now extended from the Uki Road to the Byangum Road.

Fairview at Crystal Creek was sold in 1953. When the Oxley homestead was inundated by the 1954 and 1956 floods, Frank and his family were prompted to move to a newly acquired, adjoining property purchased from Mr Lyndon Blow in 1953. This property of 83 acres, named Frangela after Frank and Angela, adjoined the urban area of Murwillumbah, and extended from Byangum Road to the Rous River, so for a period of time the McDonald family owned a strip of land extending all the way from the Tweed River to the Rous River. Their old home on Oxley reverted to a machinery shed.

The Kendonvale stud operated on the property was known around Australia and its stock were very successful at agricultural shows from Brisbane to Perth. One classic female named Kendonvale illustrious clusterette was the champion cow at the Royal Sydney show in 1965, and another won a champion ribbon at the Perth show. Both Ken and his brother Pat have been called upon numerous times as judges at all royal shows and exhibitions throughout Australia. Ken retired in 1988 and the stud was dispersed, with the property converted to beef cattle grazing and sugar cane.

After the death of their mother Bridget in 1960, Oxley passed equally to her two sons, Frank McDonald and Edward McDonald. On the death of these two men, the separate portions of Oxley, now known as Kendonvale, were acquired by sons of each; in 1989 Frank's sons Ken and Brian became the owners of their father's portion, while Edward Bertram's son Leonard acquired his father's portion. Brian McDonald planted sugar cane on Oxley and managed the dairy farm, jersey stud and cane farm operation jointly with his brothers Ken and Noel.

Brian was President of the NSW Cane Growers Association at the time of his untimely death in Mar 1994. Shortly before, Ken and Brian had dissolved their partnership and Ken became the sole owner of Kendonvale. He subsequently purchased Leonard's portion and consolidated it into Kendonvale.

Ken McDonald was an active member for many years, and President for 14 years, of the Tweed River Agricultural Show Society, and was President in 1977 when HRH Prince Charles visited and opened the show. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2011 for services to the cattle industry and to the community of the Tweed River. He died in Nov 2016.

After his marriage, a home in Murwillumbah was purchased for Frank's second son Noel McDonald, and in 1952 Noel began a milk run which the family had purchased from Mr Jack Dowling. The run supplied fresh milk to householders on Hospital Hill and in east Murwillumbah, and to all the Murwillumbah cafés, hotels and to the Tweed District

Hospital. To counter the growing popularity of bottled milk, the family introduced a snap freezing unit and cold rooms to maintain the milk quality overnight until Noel began his run very early each morning. The milk run was sold circa 1959-60, possibly due to the introduction of legislated production standards which made it uneconomic for small dairies to sell directly to the public. Noel then spent some years in car sales before commencing a successful travel company with his wife.



Ken and Noel McDonald with decorated 6gal milk churn c2005

The fourth son Pat struck out on his own, buying a property at Tygalgah from Mr Dick Jones which became the jersey stud Kenarie. Pat has been showing his cattle at the Brisbane show with great success over the last 50 years, and was the subject of a recent feature story in the local Tweed Daily News [26 May 2017].

Of the two girls, Colleen, the fourth child, entered a convent of teaching sisters and Noreen lives in Murwillumbah with her husband John Albury.

All photos courtesy Noel McDonald

¹ Lavinia Catherine [5 Jul 1886 – 10 Dec 1938] m Edmund Roche; Harriet Adelia [18 Jun 1888 – 5 Jul 1970] m Francis McInerny; Edith Pearl [11 May 1890 – 22 Mar 1960] m Albert O'Connor; Ruby Ethel [1 Dec 1894 – 4 Sep 1976] m Vincent Kinneally; Mary Eileen [19 Apr 1906 – ?] m Daniel Clifford; Rita Evelyn [25 Aug 1908 – ?] m Richard Donoghue; Francis Roy [11 Feb 1897 – 22 Nov 1976] m Sarah Angela Kenny; Edward Bertram Stanley [22 May 1899 – 4 Apr 1981] m Amey McDonough

Guided town walks

Don't forget our guided town centre historical walk, which leaves from Tweed Regional Museum (2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah) at 1pm on the first Saturday of every month.

It takes only an hour or so, covers a bit over 1km and is interesting, good exercise, and great value at just a gold coin donation to help the Society in its work. Please pass this notice around and tell your friends - see you there.

Paspalum and the Tweed economy

In a previous series in *Timelines* on the Harbison family [V4 No 3 to V5 No 4] there were a number of references to the use of paspalum grass as a cattle feed in the first decade of the 20th century. This story by Max Boyd AM and Max Willoughby explains the central role paspalum has played in the Tweed economy.

Many people today will know paspalum grass as a weed, disfiguring their lawn and producing long and slender, sticky seed heads which attach themselves annoyingly to the legs of anyone who walks through dense patches of the grass. But paspalum may be unfairly disparaged as a 'pest weed' because it was, and in many areas still is, a valuable fodder grass for dairy cattle and has provided a not inconsiderable income for many farmers and workers on the Tweed who opportunistically harvested the seed for export, particularly during times of depression and drought.

Paspalum dilatatum is commonly known as paspalum in Australia and Dallis grass in the US, but goes under a host of other names including bastard millet grass, Leichhardt grass and large water grass, to name a few. A native of the humid subtropics of southern Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, it is now widely distributed¹. Its rapid growth and spreading rhizomes make it quite drought tolerant once established, but contribute to its perception as a common weed and an invasive pest in some areas.



Growing in a lawn



Leaves and exposed old rhizomes



Seed head with several branches



Close-up of seed heads



Close-up of mature seed head



Seed heads infested with 'ergot' fungus

Photographs by Sheldon Navie; taken from Qld Govt 'Weeds of Australia' fact sheet

Baron von Mueller, a botanist at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, received and planted the first *Paspalum dilatatum* in Australia in the early 1870s, but it didn't perform well in the temperate Victorian

¹ Qld government *Weeds of Australia* fact sheet

climate. Paspalum was introduced into the northern rivers region of NSW as fodder for dairy cattle. Because of its fertility, high rainfall and warm temperature, the region was seen as prime dairy land, but native grasses were poor and those transplanted from the existing south coast industry to improve milk production proved unsuitable. In 1892 Edwin Seccombe, working at a government established experimental farm at Wollongbar, came across paspalum seeds in a shipment of Japanese clover. After research and experiments by Seccombe on his own property, Bau Farm and at the experimental farm, he was selling his seed for £1 per lb, and his vigorous proselytising of paspalum led by 1895 to its widespread application for pasture improvement and increased milk production, to the extent that by 1910 some 86,000ha of dairying land was planted to paspalum, from the Tweed south to Eden²³.

Since then, for most of the 20th century, Australia has been the world's major supplier of *Paspalum dilatatum* and carpet grass [*Axonopus affinis* and *A. compressum*] seed which all tend to grow together in pastures in the narrow coastal strip of NSW between Murwillumbah and Taree. Exports have ranged from 300 to 500 tonnes per year from the 1930s to the 1950s, to 80 to 100 tonnes per year in the 1990s due to increasing costs and declining demand.

In 1935 Australia experienced its first epidemic of paspalum fungus, the ergot *Claviceps paspali* which has occurred regularly every summer since then. The ergot is a sticky gum-like substance which develops along the seed heads during the early stages of its growth, and adversely affects the eyes of cattle as it collects around their eye lashes. In some cases it has caused blindness. Usually farmers would lock up paddocks that were to be harvested to try and reduce the damage to the eyes of their stock.

The growth of paspalum harvesting on the Tweed seems to have been first publicly documented in 1906, curiously in the Marlborough Express of NZ, by a Mr B Harrison of Burringbar. He wrote: 'After about twelve years' experience, *Paspalum dilatatum* has become the favourite grass with the farmers of the north coast of NSW, and to the dairymen especially it has proved to be a veritable mine of wealth and can be converted, if necessary, into hay, ensilage or chaff'. He continued 'In the Tweed District of NSW the seed is sown after the scrub or other growth has been felled and fired, at the rate of about 10lb to 15lb of seed per acre. It has been known to yield, at the Wollongbar Experimental Farm on cultivated ground, 22 tons of green fodder and several successive cuttings of over 13 tons each per acre, within the

² Trudgeon, T [undated] *The dairying Industry of the Richmond River* Northern Star Print, Lismore NSW [cited in: Ballina Shire Council Apr 2008 *Draft Shire Wide Community Based Heritage Study* Ballina NSW]

³ Campbell, L R V *Paspalum dilatatum and Axonopus affinis in Australia* in *Forage seed production* Fairey, D T, Hampton, J G [eds] Oxon, UK 1997

year'.

The international demand for paspalum seed resulted in, effectively, a cottage industry harvesting the seed and selling it to seed merchants, the two major buyers on the Tweed being The Budd Seed Company and J H Williams.

Large scale harvesting of this grass seed, which grew to a height of 2m, was made possible by the development of primitive but effective equipment built by local entrepreneurs.

The system consisted of a large wooden based box that had a number of conical shaped fingers made of sheet metal that were attached to the front section of the box. These harvesters were usually attached to the front of old model utilities which were the power source used to push the harvester through the mass of vegetation. When this harvester was being pushed through the grass, the seed heads moved through the fingers and hit a carefully placed slim steel bar which dislodged the seed which then fell into the box. Harvesting was done in summer months when the seed was ripe and about to drop off.



Paspalum header box

Each box required a man to stand in it [with great difficulty] and clear any blockages that regularly appeared in the fingers. Clearly, the job of standing in these harvesters was a very unpleasant experience, not the least of reasons being that it involved sharing the space with a huge variety of insects, grasshoppers, snakes, birds' nests and spiders. And of course, it was also very hot. In addition, most paddocks were very rough which meant that the person in the box had to hang on tightly to retain some degree of stability. The grass was so thick that the old utilities regularly had to stop when their radiators became blocked and the water boiled.

When the box was filled with seed, it was then necessary to empty it by using a shovel to remove it and fill up hessian bags which were then placed in the back of the utilities. Once a load had been accumulated, it was taken away to a shed and spread out thinly over the floor to dry, before it was sieved by hand to remove any impurities. The finished product was placed in jute bags and sold to one or the other of the local seed merchants.

Many men made some hard-earned cash by hand collecting the paspalum that grew on the sides of the roads. They used wide shallow galvanized dishes which were held in place by a rope or leather strap passed around their necks and attached to the dishes with some strategically placed pieces of hessian attached to the sides of the dishes to stop the seed from falling out as they hand pulled the seed heads into the dish.

Tweed local and MHS Vice President Max Boyd AM recalls: 'From my father's records, I know that 5,868 pounds weight of paspalum was harvested from his farm in April 1955 which was worth £513 9s at the going price of 1s 9d per pound. That same year, another seed known as compressum was harvested from his farm and yielded 1,372 pounds weight for a total return of £61 12s 3d. The rate paid per pound varied between 9d and 1s.' [£100 in 1955 is roughly equivalent to \$3,300 today]

Clarrie Hall AM

by Max Boyd AM

It is a privilege and an honour to write this appraisal of the life of a man for whom I have the highest respect and whom I regarded as a true friend and mentor.

Clarence Henry Hall, or Clarrie as he was affectionately known, was undoubtedly the one councillor of Tweed Shire Council [TSC] whose vision and deep love of this beautiful valley made him pre-eminent amongst his peers, both local and state.

He was born at Kunghur in 1906 and spent the greater part of his life there. After high school in Murwillumbah he trained as a teacher in the Qld education system, but returned to the family dairy farm to take over its management in 1941.

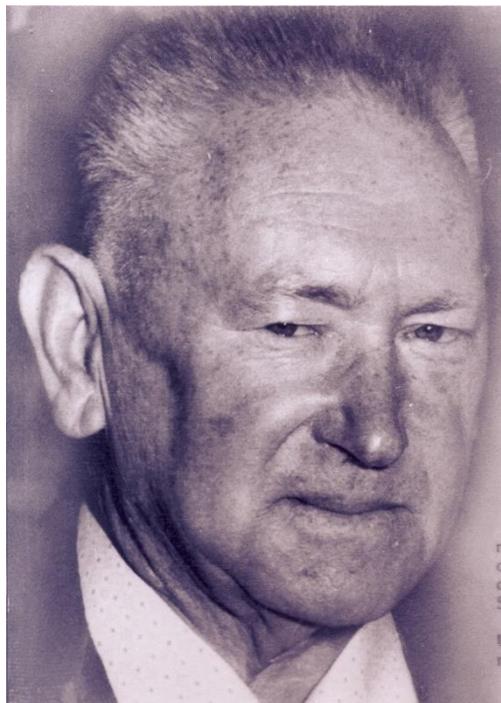
He was first elected to Council in 1953 and went on to serve continuously for 26 years on council, 16 years as President, until his sudden death in Oct 1979. This was a mammoth effort for he was there at a time of some of the most important and far reaching decisions that have ever been made by Council.

The first of these was when Council was advised by the local government authority on the Qld side of the border which supplied water from the little Nerang Dam to Tweed Heads, that it would no longer be able to continue that service due to not having enough water for its own needs.

This put Tweed Shire in the position of having to quickly find its own alternative supply. The Shire Engineer at that time was Mr Keith Curran who devised the scheme that entailed building a weir across the Tweed River at Bray Park to prevent the salt water from mixing with the fresh coming down both the Oxley and Tweed Rivers. It also entailed constructing a major pump station, a water treatment plant and water mains from Bray Park to Tweed Heads.

There was no support from the state, so Council

decided to levy a rate over every property in the Shire, whether it was to benefit or not, in order to raise £1m to fund the works. Although hotly opposed by many, Council stuck to its decision and over time put in place a water supply service that not only supplied the needs of the Shire's population, but also allowed the Shire to grow, taking it into a whole new era.



The other decision was made with him as President and Keith Curran achieving what was considered to be impossible. The State Government owned what was known as Greenbank Island, a land mass of about 250 acres of sand

and mud flats which stood between what was then the Pacific Highway [now Wharf Street] and the Tweed River, with a shallow channel running parallel with the Highway. In those days, it was a haven for mosquitoes and sand-fly's.

The State Government had advertised it internationally as being for sale and received no response.

It was then that Keith Curran developed a plan for its development, which was met with strong opposition, primarily from the people of Tweed Heads who did not want to lose their back channel.

Coincidentally, the new Labor member for the seat of Lismore, Mr Keith Compton, became Minister for Lands and he agreed to a meeting with Cr Hall and Keith Curran to consider their plan for the development of Greenbank Island.

At first the Minister was not enthusiastic about Tweed's plan, but after some consideration agreed to enter into an arrangement with Council generally on the terms that Council would have to resume the lands from the Crown, pay the Government £100,000 for the land, and fill and develop a site of 10 acres for a hospital. Council agreed to the terms, bought its own dredge and started filling. It is worth relating that persons unknown twice sank the dredge, but they did not deter or stop the work.

It took a number of years to complete, but this major development changed Tweed Heads from a small

fishing village into the major urban complex it is today. And Council complied with all conditions of the agreement.

It can be truly said that these two decisions were undoubtedly the most important and far reaching in Council's history, and Clarrie's wise counsel played a significant part in both.

Clarrie was a leader in the dairy industry for some 30 years and a keen member of the Primary Producers Union of NSW. He was elected as a Director of NORCO in 1961 and held that position for a great many years. He would be proud today of the present achievements of NORCO and the much higher remuneration our dairy farmers are being paid through NORCO's success. Other significant positions he held representing TSC were: Far North Coast County Council for noxious weed control; 17 terms on A division of NSW Shires Association; NSW Local Government Appeals Tribunal; Chairman of the State Council of Flood Mitigation Authorities of NSW in 1971-72 with responsibility for the annual conference in Murwillumbah in 1972. He was President of Council when it was awarded the A R Bluett Memorial Award in 1971 and again in 1975 for the most outstanding local government Council in the State those years.

In recognition of his work in obtaining the excellent water supply that the Tweed is fortunate to have, it was unanimously voted to name the dam built by Public Works of NSW in 1982 the Clarrie Hall Dam. No greater honour could be bestowed on a man than to have his name attached to such a major public utility.

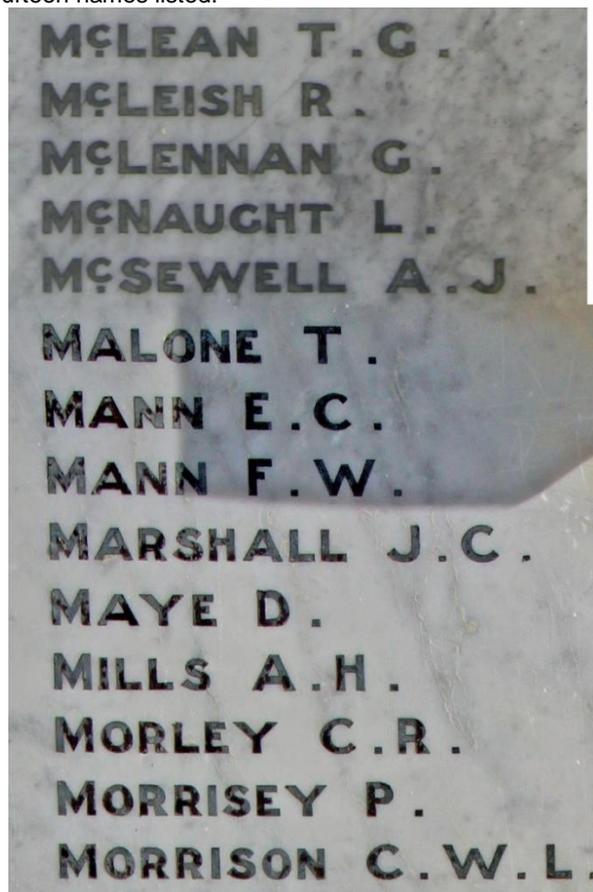
Clarrie was regularly at the forefront of so many projects. One which is not widely known was his involvement in the development of the tourist industry on the Tweed. He strongly supported the construction of the Tweed Tourist Authority Tourist Information Centre on the corner of what used to be the Pacific Highway and Alma Street. This has since been enlarged and has been renamed as the World Heritage Rainforest Centre. He attended many annual tourist conferences with me in various parts of the State.

There are myriad other organisations that he supported in his lifetime. His name will go down as the doyen of Tweed Local Government and as a truly dedicated and remarkable citizen of Tweed Shire. Over all of his years of striving to do his best for an area that he loved dearly, he was supported unwaveringly by his wife Rose. They will both be remembered for many years to come.

Clarrie Hall was a true gentleman, a man of great honour and integrity, and I feel singularly honoured to have served with him for most of his time as a leader in Tweed Shire Council.

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 is the eleventh set of fourteen names listed.



Lest We Forget.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY: Formed on 16 March 1959, the Society's aim is to research, preserve and promote the rich and unique history of our 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. The Society is proudly supported by the Tweed Regional Museum, a community facility of Tweed Shire Council.

CONTACT US

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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.