

TIMELINES

The Quarterly Newsletter of Murwillumbah Historical Society Inc.

ISSN 2208-1909 April 2018 Vol. 6 No. 4



Welcome

Welcome to the special six-page April 2018 *Timelines*, the newsletter of the Murwillumbah Historical Society. In this edition we pay our final respects to Dr Betty Marks and Nick Gouliaev, two of our Society friends and colleagues who passed away recently. We also continue our ongoing "Lest We Forget" series.

Our thanks go to Max Willoughby for his service as *Timelines* editor over the last two years.

This edition's contents:

- Lest We Forget - Reuben Moysey Stewart
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Lest We Forget

To mark the centenary of World War One [1914-1918], each edition of *Timelines* from April 2014 until Oct 2018 will present an article honouring the memory of one of our fallen whose names are engraved on the Murwillumbah War Memorial. This edition features Reuben Moysey Stewart of Tyalgum. The series, originally conceived and written by Tony Clark, is now researched and written by Society members Sandra Jones and Marie Fletcher.

Reuben Moysey Stewart was born at Bungawalbyn, Richmond River in 1896. He was one of fifteen children born to William John and Mary Jane Stewart (nee Bulley).

In 1906, as part of the Brays Creek Land Tenure in the Parish of Tyalgum, William and his son Hersee (Hersey) settled on Lot 14PT, a selection of 221 acres which included part of the Old Casino Track. The remaining members of the family remained at Bungawalbyn,

while William and Hersee set up camp and erected a permanent slab hut on the bank of Brays Creek. In time all the family was re-united. They then concentrated on developing and working their dairy farm at Tyalgum.



N02691 Private Rueben Moysey Stewart (Photo Ref: TRM US000059)



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 by email at trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Ten months after the outbreak of World War I Reuben enlisted in the army on 2 Jun 1915 in Brisbane. His brother, Donald Christopher, had enlisted the previous day. The two brother were recruited to the 9th Battalion, 8th Reinforcements and assigned the following regimental numbers: Rueben 2691 and Christopher 2681. (Two other brothers, William John Jr. and Hersey John were to enlist later in the war.)

On 16 Aug 1915, Reuben and Christopher embarked from Brisbane on board HMAT A55 Kyarra. They were both taken on strength at Lemnos, Greece on 18 Nov 1915. Christopher was to join the 4th Division Artillery as a gunner. He survived the war and returned to Australia in May 1919.

Meanwhile, in Jan 1916, Reuben, who remained with the 9th Battalion, sailed from Mudros, the port of Lemnos, aboard the Grampian to Alexandria. Shortly after, he was admitted to Tel-el-Kebir Hospital in Cairo with influenza. In February he was transferred to Helouan Convalescent Hospital and re-joined his battalion at Serapeum in Egypt in March 1916. In early April he embarked on the troop ship Saxonia, sailing from Alexandria in Egypt to Marseilles, France where he joined the British Expeditionary Force. Unfortunately, in mid May, he was again hospitalised, this time with German Measles. Reuben again returned to 9th Battalion on 9 Jun 1916. At the end of June he was attached to 1st ANZAC on escort duty.

In early 1916, the Australian divisions joined the British army in France and Belgium. At last the Australians had arrived in the war's main battle theatre. Here on the Western front, they met a new form of fighting, compared to the seaborne invasion of the Turkish Gallipoli peninsula in 1915. For many, this was to become a year of terrible sacrifice.

By now the British army's efforts had shifted to the Somme. The Battle of Fromelles was the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front. The battle started on 19 July and by 8am on 20 Jul 1916, the battle was over. In that short time the 5th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, rendering it incapable of offensive action for many months.

Meanwhile, further British attacks on the Somme had brought the front line to the village of Pozieres, which was behind German lines. The village was fortified by a strong trench system, with blockhouses both north and south. Pozieres was an important strategic position, not only because it was located on a communications route, but also, because its heights dominated the surrounding battlefields.

1 Anzac Corps, part of British General Gough's



Men of the 53rd Australian Infantry Battalion in a trench in their front line a few minutes before the launching of the attack in the battle of Fromelles. (Photo Ref: AWM H16396)

Reserve Army, was given the main task of capturing the German positions on the Pozieres Ridge. After a preliminary bombardment, men of the Australian 1st Division launched an attack on the village on 23 July, assisted by the British 1st Division on the right and the 48th Division on the left. The Australians rushed forward and successfully captured the southern side of the village and a blockhouse called Gibraltar. Consolidating their new position, the Australians suffered constant shelling and counter-attacks before being relieved by the Australian 2nd Division on 27 July. The 1st Division had lost over 5,000 casualties. Rueben Moysey Stewart was among those Australian soldiers who gave their all. He was 21 years old.

The 2nd Division made several attempts at capturing the German second line and the blockhouse called The Windmill, north of the village. These positions were eventually taken on 4 August; The 2nd Division had been in the line just over a week and had suffered almost 7,000 casualties.

The 4th Division was brought in to continue the fight in the direction of Mouquet Farm. Although occupied several times, German counter-attacks

and bombardments did not allow the position to be firmly held. Canadian troops finally relieved the Australians in this sector in early September, but Mouquet Farm did not fall until the end of the month.

The Australians lost 23,000 men at Pozieres in just six weeks of fighting.

Reuben Moysey Stewart has no known grave. He is commemorated at the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France. Reuben was posthumously awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sources:

UNSW - The AIF Project

AWM - 1916: Australians in France

National Archives of Australia

Tweed Regional Museum

Under the Pinnacle – The History of Brays Creek NSW – Norm Smith, an MHS Publication

Vale Dr Betty Marks

Along with many other organisations around the district, Murwillumbah Historical Society lost a valued friend and ardent supporter with the passing of our Patron and colleague, Dr Betty Marks, in February 2018.

Thanks to new Timelines contributor Di Millar for taking on the sad task of writing this article. Hopefully this will be the first of many stories from her to grace our pages.

In early 2001 local Governments around Australia were asked to nominate people who had affected people's lives in the community and country. Tweed Shire's Federation Person of Importance



Dr Betty Marks at home in 2014 (Photo: Tony Clark)

was well known Murwillumbah GP Dr Betty Marks whose nomination came from Murwillumbah Quota Club.

Considered an icon of Murwillumbah and an inspiration to women and girls from all walks of life, Dr Betty's cardboard cut-out joined 631 other Local government area nominations for a "Peoplescape" project in Canberra. This was just one of several awards that Dr Betty received for achievements made during a life in which endeavour and commitment began at an early age.

Born 28 Feb 1924 to Bruce and Besse McEwen, Betty moved around country NSW with her family. Dr Bruce McEwen was previously a dentist at Nyngan and then Dubbo before taking up practice in Bathurst around 1929.

Bruce McEwen was a keen sheep breeder and in 1936 he purchased an 800-acre property at Tarana, (located between Bathurst and Lithgow), where he bred fat lambs and laid the foundation for a Dorset Horn stud. In early 1943 he purchased nearly the whole of a Dorset Horn stud at Bathurst. He spent his weekends on his acreage in the hope of retiring from dentistry and devoting all his time on the land.

Against this country backdrop Betty flourished. At the age of 13 she was awarded first prize for home-made scones at the Bathurst Show. She also became an adept horsewoman and rode on her father's Tarana and Bathurst properties.

Betty McEwen attended Marsden Girls School in Bathurst where she finished her schooling with the dual distinction of being head girl and dux of school. In December 1941 the local Bathurst paper reported on Marsden School's speech day and prize presentation. Betty McEwen was described as having qualities of leadership, loyalty, courage and cheerfulness which had shown her to be worthy of her high office as head girl at Marsden School.

On leaving school Betty took her father's advice and commenced work at the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (now NAB) but only lasted 15 months in the banking industry as boredom soon set in.

In 1943 Betty McEwen commenced her medical studies at Sydney University, however she still returned home to spend her spare time on her father's sheep stud "Harvard" at Tarana where she could be seen astride her horse.

In 1944 Betty was amongst the hockey blues at Sydney University. Again, when her second-year medical exams were finished, Betty returned to her country roots to pick peas at Harvard Farm.

Graduating as Dr Betty McEwen in 1948, the young woman secured a job as a junior doctor at Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney earning the weekly sum of five pounds. Dr Betty considered herself lucky to obtain the position as she admitted that at

university she had been more interested in sport than her studies.

During the five years spent at Prince Alfred she was promoted to head of Gloucester House, a 160-bed private section of the hospital and then to assistant medical superintendent of the entire hospital.

There were few female doctors at this time and old prejudices had to be overcome particularly when interacting with lots of the older nurses in the wards who preferred attending to male doctors.

However, Dr Betty McEwen prevailed and medicine became her life's work.

On 30 Apr 1953, in a bouffant dress of figured organdie, Dr Betty McEwen married Dr James (Jim) Marks at St Michael's Church, Vaucluse and so became a member of a prominent pioneering family on the Tweed.



The wedding of Drs Betty and Jim Marks in 1953 (Photo: Dr Betty Marks)

The Marks family came to Australia from Northern Ireland in the late 1820s and after spending ten years in Sydney moved to Kiama and Jamberoo where they settled on the land. Dr Jim's grandfather William Marks, born in 1824, followed his family to Australia as a young man.

William eventually settled on the Tweed in 1871 and bought up land in the name of his seven-year-

old son Elijah Caleb Job (Dr Jim's father). Caleb Marks cleared timber from land on the Bungalora Hills where he became a sugar grower, farmer and then dairyman. Caleb Marks was also prominent in civic affairs on the Tweed and was Tweed Shire President in 1918 and 1931.

Shortly after their marriage in 1953 Drs Jim and Betty moved to Tweed Heads and commuted to their work at Tweed District (now Murwillumbah) Hospital.

That same year Dr Betty joined the Queen Street Medical Centre and Dr Jim joined in 1954. When medical centre partner Dr Kenneth Harbison retired in 1957, Drs Betty and Jim carried on the practice with hospital visiting rights until 1976 when Dr Jim retired.

Dr Betty continued to work at what she loved best; administering to and caring for the people of the Tweed.

From the mid-1980s until the early 2000s she also found time to write numerous diabetic and low-calorie cookbooks as diabetes was a personal issue for her.

For the last 25 years of her lengthy career she worked five days a week at the medical centre as well as caring for residents in local nursing homes. In July 2014, 90-year-old Dr Betty Marks finally closed the appointment book on her medical profession after 66 memorable years. Over 200 people attended her retirement function held at the Murwillumbah Golf Clubhouse where reminiscences and anecdotal stories flowed unchecked. MP for Lismore, Mr Thomas George, capped the evening's programme when he presented Dr Betty with the Premier's Community Service Award.

This award joined the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) granted to Betty Jean Harvard Marks on 26 January 1990 for service to medicine and the community.

Dr Betty also held the Centenary Medal, granted 1 Jan 2001, that commemorated 100 years of Federation and acknowledged the challenges of the new century by recognising citizens and other people who contributed to Australian society and Government. Her citation read "for outstanding service to community through health and wellbeing".

Although her hockey days were behind her Dr Betty took an interest in the local hockey club and in retirement intended to spend more time with this and the other community groups she had been patron of for many years. Her love of history led to her commitment to the Murwillumbah Historical Society over an equally prolonged period.

Ailing health eventually forced Dr Betty to relocate in December 2017 from her beloved Murwillumbah to Melbourne where her daughter Sue Payne and her extended family resided. Although sound of mind her physical ailments were becoming

burdensome.

Following Dr Betty Marks' passing on 24 Feb 2018, a small funeral for family and close friends was held in Melbourne with a memorial service taking place later in Murwillumbah.

Dr Betty Marks will remain firmly entrenched in the hearts and minds of her many friends and colleagues both locally and Australia wide.

A remarkable journey.

Vale Nick Gouliaev

Sadly for his family and many friends, Society stalwart Nick Gouliaev passed suddenly in March 2018. We will all, and in particular the team here at Timelines, miss his expertise and his friendly, knowledgeable and supportive approach. Thanks to our Vice-President Max Boyd for writing this article about his good friend.

In May 2011, the Murwillumbah Historical Society gained a new member. His name was Nicholas Gouliaev. Nick came to the Society as a practising architect. He was immediately accepted by all members as a greatly valued source of information on the many historical buildings in the town. He was able to provide in depth details of the architecture and he also began to draw the



Nick and Vivien Gouliaev (Photo: Vivien Gouliaev)

buildings in beautiful black pencil sketches. He soon had quite a portfolio of these excellent images and was justifiably proud of this skill.

Nick was a quiet person and very likeable. He fitted seamlessly into the team of the Society who had been active in producing a quarterly newsletter called "Timelines". He produced his first article for Timelines in July 2012. His subject was the Tweed Valley Museum. In succeeding issues, he wrote on the Main Street Medical Centre; followed by the Murwillumbah Hotel; the Southern Cross Credit Union building; the Austral Building; the Imperial Hotel; the Marville building; the Murwillumbah Court House; the Murwillumbah Police Station; the Hartmann building in Prospero Street, South Murwillumbah and he had written the

first part of his story on the Holston building in Prospero Street, South Murwillumbah. He researched his subjects in great depth and used his knowledge of architecture to record all of the relevant details of each. His work is a wonderful legacy that he has left as a lasting example of his insightful knowledge and interest in these important Murwillumbah buildings.

Sadly Nick died suddenly and his funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church, Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah on 4 Apr 2018. Nick had offered his advice on the colour scheme for this lovely church and he had been a regular attendee at the services there.

Although he had been with our Society for about seven years he had never told us much of his background. However, his older brother Vladimir, who gave the eulogy at Nick's funeral, told us that Nick was born on 3 Dec 1945 and his full name was Nikolai Ivanovich Gouliaev. His parents Ivan and Zina were Russian. Nick was born in Harbin, the most northern city in China. It had a large Russian population from the 1890's when the Russian Tsar built a railway junction there. The area was leased by Russia for 99 years and essentially remained Russian even after the Russian Revolution of 1917. Later, in 1949, after Mao Ze Dong had led the Chinese Revolution, all Europeans were told to leave China.

In 1945, the Soviet Army defeated the Japanese occupiers of China and entered Harbin. The Soviet Secret Police came with the Red Army and they arrested many Russian men who they charged as anti-communists and sent them into prison camps in Siberia. Vladimir said their father was one of them and they never saw him again. This happened just before Nick was born.

Vladimir said they were lucky that their mother was a graduate pharmacist and was able to raise her boys as a single parent.

Vladimir said that he and Nick were very close and they played a variety of sports with other Russian and Chinese kids. From an early age, Nick displayed a great ability to draw and excelled in drawing pictures of houses and in building models of houses using small building blocks.

In 1956, thanks to her aunt who was living in Sydney, their mother finally succeeded in moving the family to that city. Life in China had become intolerable.

In Sydney, their mother met and married a generous and wonderful man, Mr William Willis, who clearly gave them a vastly higher standard of living than what they had had in China. For some months prior to his death, Nick had been looking after his step-father who was not well and was living in the Tweed. Fortuitously, just prior to Nick's

death, Vladimir had taken responsibility for their step-father and had moved him back to a nursing home in Sydney.

Their step-father had generously supported the two boys and they each received their Leaving Certificates and a University education. Nick graduated as a Bachelor of Architecture in 1971. He commenced work with a large architectural firm in Sydney and just prior to graduating, he and his brother Vladimir had visited the Gold Coast. At this time he met his future wife on Greenmount Beach, Coolangatta on 10 Mar 1971.

Nick was very impressed with this colourful city. He made a number of trips from Sydney to Coolangatta to maintain contact with his new acquaintance before finally moving to the Gold Coast. He sprayed his gold coloured Falcon with lilac coloured paint and moved there to start work in a small architectural firm based on the Isle of Capri. Nick's life as an architect varied from working in a large firm of architects in Southport where he was engaged in designing the Fun Park for Expo 1988 in Brisbane; working in partnership with Mr Col Merrin on projects that included the Coolangatta – Tweed Golf Club, the Tweed Heads Bowls Club and the Twin Towns Services Club, all before opening his own practice which he operated until his retirement.

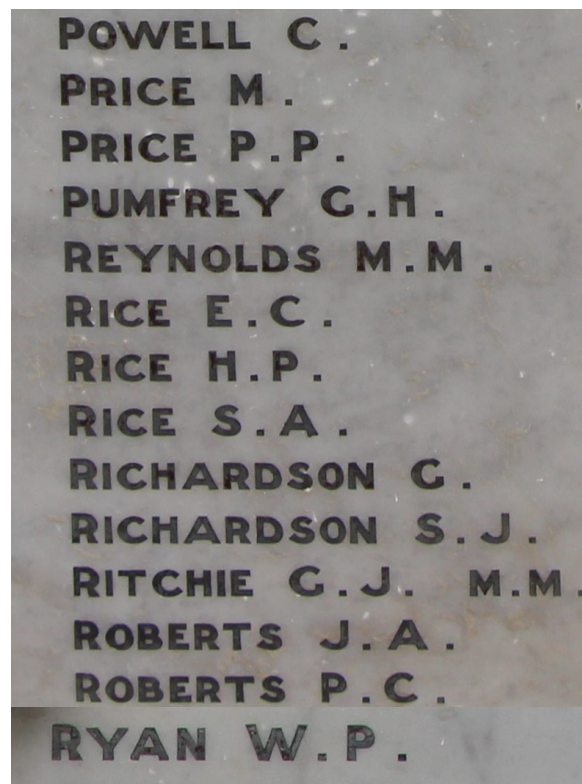
On 29 Jan 1976, Nick married Vivien the beautiful young lady he had met on Greenmount Beach. They had been married for 42 years and had been living at Kielvale for the last 10 years of his life. Nick's funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church Murwillumbah on 26th March 2018.

The members of the Murwillumbah Historical Society will long remember Nick for his pleasant personality, his courtesy and his valuable

contribution to the series of articles he produced on the significant buildings in Murwillumbah and for his brilliant drawings. He will be greatly missed.

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 thirteenth 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.

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C/- Tweed Regional Museum, 2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah NSW 2484 or 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.

