

TIMELINES

The Quarterly Newsletter of Murwillumbah Historical Society Inc.

ISSN 2208-1909 July 2018 Vol. 7 No. 1



Welcome

Welcome to the July 2018 *Timelines*, the newsletter of the Murwillumbah Historical Society. Highlights include our 2nd last "Lest We Forget" article, the final part of Ross Johnson's history of his pioneering family, an interesting article with great community input on a prominent citizen, a mystery unravelled and another sad Vale.

This edition's contents:

- Lest We Forget - Henry Joseph Thomas Taylor
- A Notable Public Servant - Charles Hubbard
- Vale Shirley Aked
- Johnsons of Johnson's Creek (Part 3 (final))
- Mystery unravelled
- Roll of Honour
- Society and Contact Information

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 Henry Taylor, born in Bega but later of Eungella. The series, originally conceived and written by Tony Clark, is now researched and written by Society members Sandra Jones and Marie Fletcher.

Henry Joseph Thomas Taylor (known affectionately as Harry by his family) was born in



Bega in 1888. He was the oldest child of James and Mary (nee Hill) and a third generation Taylor in Bega. His grandfather, Thomas Taylor, was born in Essex, England in 1841 and arrived in Australia in 1856. By 1864 he had settled in the Bega Valley and later that year married Louisa (nee) Hackett. Thomas was to become a prominent person in the Bega community. An

extract from his Obituary in the Bega Budget dated 18 Dec 1915, reads, "The late Mr Taylor was the embodiment of honour and belonged to that hard-working class of pioneer that did so much to make this State what it is today."

Henry grew up at Tanja on his family's dairy farm. In 1902 his mother, Mary, died and in 1904 his



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

father, James married Mary's sister Louisa. James fathered twelve children in all, ten of whom survived him.

By the early twentieth century farming conditions were deteriorating in the Bega Valley and James had to consider finding a better life for his large family. Another extract from the Bega Budget, printed 21 Oct 1908 reads, "Mr James Taylor, of Tanja, will start for the North Coast on Saturday with the view of settling there. Mr Taylor has resided at Tanja almost all his life, and is one of those industrious and capable farmers that we can ill afford to lose. Still it is a man's duty to try and better his position and the BUDGET wishes our departing citizen good luck in the famous North Coast". By 1912 the family had settled at Eungella and James following in his father's footsteps was soon a prominent citizen in the area, taking part in any movement for the welfare of his district. He was member of the Tweed River Agricultural Society for many years, a Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Murwillumbah Branch of the P.P.U. (Primary Producers Union).

With such a wonderful heritage, Henry was probably looking forward to a full and productive life in the Tweed Valley. However, things were to change dramatically with the outbreak of WW1. Like many young honourable men, Henry was keen to do his duty so on 21 Sep 1914 he enlisted in the army at Lismore. He was allocated the regimental number 957 and the rank of Private. His attestation papers note that he was 26 years old, 5'7" tall, with brown eyes and black hair, and his occupation was farmer.

Along with many local recruits he was assigned to 15th Battalion (Bn) A.I.F., F Company. This Battalion was raised in Sep 1914 mostly from recruits who were volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from northern NSW and Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Bn it formed 4th Brigade, under the command of Colonel John Monash. After initial training at Broadmeadows, Victoria, the troops embarked for overseas on board the Transport A40 H.M.A.T. Ceramic on 22 Dec 1914.

Despite the expectation of sailing to England and then across the English Channel to join the British forces in France to engage the German army, which had invaded France and Belgium in Aug 1914, the Ceramic sailed to Egypt, disembarking at Alexandria on 3 Feb 1915. Here the troops moved into camp at Heliopolis. On 10 Apr 15th Bn was moved by train to Alexandria where it embarked upon troopships bound for the Gallipoli Peninsula. After leaving Alexandria, 15th Bn sailed to Mudros where the Allied force assembled. Assigned to the follow-up waves, 15th Bn landed at Anzac Cove on the afternoon of 25 Apr 1915.

Even though 25 Apr is remembered as a time to honour our brave ANZACs, the campaign lasted for several months after this date. The allies tried to break through the Turkish lines and the Turks tried to drive the allies off the peninsula for many months throughout 1915.

On 9 May a party from 15th Bn (Queensland, Tasmania) crept out at night and captured the Turkish trench in front of Quinn's Post. Next morning they were driven back with many men wounded as they ran for the Australian line. Quinn's Post, named after Major Hugh Quinn, 15th Bn (Queensland) AIF, was one of the most dangerous places at Anzac. "Men passing the fork in Monash Valley", wrote Charles Bean, "used to glance at the place (as one of them said) as a man looks at a haunted house". Quinn's Post was positioned on the northern edge of the front line along Second Ridge, and beyond was Deadman's Ridge, from which the enemy could fire into the side of the Post. Other Turkish trenches lay opposite, and the Turks had only to advance a few metres, capture Quinn's, and the whole Anzac area could be lost.

On 9 May 1915 Henry was reported as "wounded in action", in the vicinity of Quinn's Post. The initial army report stated "that his wound was not specially stated to be serious originally, and in such cases the Egyptian Authorities advise the absence of further particulars may be accepted as indicative of favourable progress towards again becoming fit for active service." However, on 10 May Henry was reported "wounded and missing in action" and finally as KILLED IN ACTION. Because of the nature of these reports, a court of enquiry was held at 4th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters at Serapeum in Apr 1916. This court determined that Henry was killed in action in Gallipoli.

Henry has no known grave but is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial (Panel 50), Gallipoli, Turkey.



Henry Taylor's WW1 military medals (Photo: Vic & Shirley Taylor)

On 17 Jul 1916 Henry's effects were despatched to his father. They consisted of a Diary & Year Book, Letters, Leather Belt, Purse, Rubber Stamp, Mustard Plaster, Armlet, Holy Bible, Inf. Pocket Book, Writing Pad, Mirror-damaged.

For his service, Henry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

References:

Australian War Memorial
National Archives Australia
RSL Virtual War Memorial
Murwillumbah Historical Society
UNSW AUST. AIF Project
Tweed Regional Museum
Cenotaph Names Murwillumbah War Memorial
Bega Historical society
Vic & Shirley Taylor

A NOTABLE PUBLIC SERVANT

Max Boyd provides us with this succinct history of prominent local citizen Charles Hubbard and his significant contributions to Murwillumbah.

In all the years following the opening of the new Courthouse in Murwillumbah in 1909, many public servants associated with the administration of the law spent some of their working life in this lovely old building. One of those was the Clerk of Petty Sessions who arrived in the town in 1949. His name was Charles Howard Henry Hubbard or "CHHH" as he was known to his family.

He was born in Carlton, Victoria in 1902 and was the youngest of five.

He married Mary Walker in 1928 and had three daughters, the eldest, Gwen married Arthur Budd; Shirley married Bill Aked and the youngest, Dorothy, married Wally Budd. It was his daughters who have provided the background and material for this record of their father's time in Murwillumbah and the contributions he made to the town.

After 13 family moves during his 47 years of service with the Justice Department, Charles decided, when he was appointed to Murwillumbah, that this would be where he would retire. During the war, he was on the relieving staff and had to spend long periods away from his family.

In his capacity as Clerk of Petty Sessions in Murwillumbah he had 32 areas of responsibility including births, deaths and marriages, registration of dogs and registrar of pensions. In all probability, it was through his contact with the many pensioners he met in his work that he became aware of their need for a place in which they could congregate and socialise.

The Autumn Club's records show that a meeting was called by a Mr D.B. Pollock in the School of Arts on 7 Jul 1955. About 50 senior citizens



The Hubbard family L-R Back Row: Shirley, Charles and Mary, Front Row: Gwen and Dorothy (Photo: Hubbard family)

attended. Charles Hubbard (Registrar of Pensions) and Mr J.M. Dean (Postmaster) addressed the gathering. The outcome was that a committee was formed with Mr D.B. Pollock elected as its President, Mr T.E. Flynn as its Secretary and Mr R.W. Baird as its Treasurer. Mr Hubbard is described in the history of the Club as being its founder.

Apparently the name for the organisation was discussed and Mrs Mary Hubbard suggested it be called the Autumn Club on the grounds that the Club was being formed for the benefit of people who were in the Autumn years of their lives and Autumn was the nicest season of the year. This was agreed and so this new facility had confirmed its name and was duly underway.

The Club was very fortunate to be given the site by Mr and Mrs Wal McLaren on which their club building could be constructed. This site in the fullness of time came to be located adjacent to the Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre in Tumbulgum Road when it was opened in 1975.

Two meetings were held in the School of Arts and then they were held in the Red Cross Centre in

Knox Park until 1966 when they went back to the School of Arts. After many years of hard work involved with fund raising and clearing of the site by members, the Club building was opened by Cr Clarrie Hall, Shire President on 15 Aug 1968 when members could finally occupy their very own home and have a place to meet.

The seed of the idea sown by Charles Hubbard has proven to be a wonderful asset to the countless members who have used the Autumn Club as an enjoyable and comfortable location for them to meet, relax and enjoy the company of their peer group.

Charles became a most valued citizen of the town. He joined the Murwillumbah Rotary Club and was Secretary in 1951 and President in 1953. He produced several plays for the Murwillumbah Amateur Dramatic Arts Society including a world premiere by local author Dulcie Dunlop Lads entitled "We have our dreams". He also produced the Anglican Review for two years and was the Anglican Sunday School Superintendent. Charles was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Whilst he was a member of the Murwillumbah Rotary Club he realised that Murwillumbah was the first town he had been in that did not have a town clock, so he became the instigator for the one we have today in Broadway.

But his most outstanding and lasting contribution to the town was the building fronting onto Tumbulgum Road and standing beside the Tweed Shire Council Civic and Cultural Centre in Murwillumbah which became known as the Autumn Club. Thanks to its current President, Mrs Nola Gresham, who has loaned the records of the Club and Gwen, Shirley and Dorothy, daughters of Mary and Charles Hubbard, it has been possible to preserve this piece of Murwillumbah's history.

Charles Hubbard died on 26 Mar 1977 aged 75. His daughters donated a big painting in memory of their parents after they had both passed away and it was hung in the lounge room of the Club.

Produced and written with the assistance of Gwen Budd, Shirley Aked, Dorothy Budd and Mrs Nola Gresham, President of the Murwillumbah Autumn Club.

Vale Shirley Aked (Hubbard)

The Society was saddened to hear of the passing of Shirley Aked, contributor to the above story, wife of Bill Aked and valued friend to Murwillumbah Historical Society and many of its members, who passed away in July 2018. Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Johnsons of Johnson's Creek

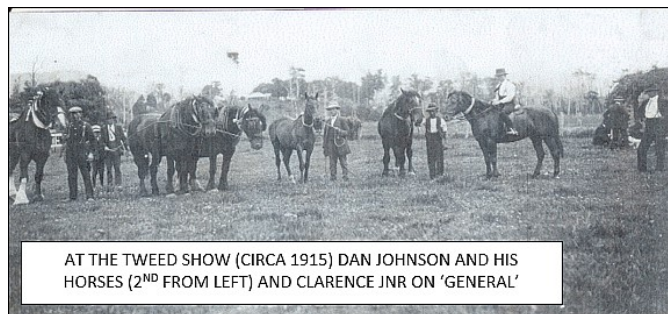
Johnson's Creek drains the cane fields to the east of Condong on the Tweed Valley Way, and runs into the Tweed River approximately 2km north and east of Condong. It was in this area that the Johnson family settled in 1883 after their long trek from Somerset in England. Family member and Society member Ross Johnson describes their eventful journey and subsequent contributions to the community. This is the third and final part of the story. [All photographs courtesy Ross Johnson]

Contributions to society



FAMILY MEMBERS TROTTING AT MURWILLUMBAH

Horses were prominent in the lives of the Johnsons, from the conducting of gymkhanas on family properties, exhibiting in the Tweed Show, trotting at the old South Murwillumbah race track *Robbery Park*, to working with them and riding them.



AT THE TWEED SHOW (CIRCA 1915) DAN JOHNSON AND HIS HORSES (2ND FROM LEFT) AND CLARENCE JNR ON 'GENERAL'

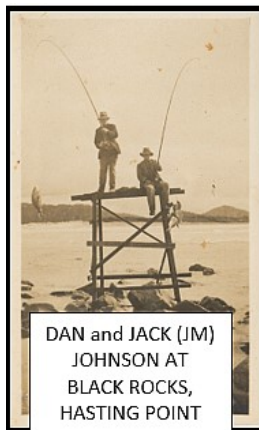
Tennis was catered for on the home courts on several of the properties. As well, men, women and children participated in many matches on the clay courts provided by CSR. Those with direct CSR connections, through being staff or growers, were often invited to play on the grass courts at the mill manager's residence, the pagoda of which is now heritage listed.

Cricket and football was played on land offered for use by Pat Johnson on his farm adjacent to the mill. As well, members participated in district teams such as Old Boys and Seagulls.

Swimming was taught in the river on the northern end of the village. In later years many family members became involved with the Murwillumbah Swimming Club and Greenmount (Coolangatta) and Cudgen Headland (Kingscliff) Surf Clubs.

Lawn bowls occupied many leisure hours, initially at Murwillumbah, but later at Condong where local families were enthused to start a club. Under the guidance of Hec Johnson, George McCrone and

Percy Lesleighter, the club commenced in the late 1940's with Hec as its original president



DAN and JACK (JM)
JOHNSON AT
BLACK ROCKS,
HASTING POINT

Fishing provided the family with many exciting and challenging experiences, from using a sapling rod off the old Dry Dock at Terranora Inlet, to a permanent trestle in the ocean at Black Rocks near Hastings Point, to beach fishing for tailor, there was many a great catch. A most memorable occasion was the five-metre

tiger shark caught by

Wally Johnson while handline fishing for snapper from his cousin Ted's (Frederick David) trawler.

Fred Johnson had a fine reputation for his Whiting caught with freshly dug blood worms from the islands in the river adjacent to Johnson's Creek.



WALLY

War service



FREDERICK DAVID (TED)
JOHNSON

Family members served their country through Active Service, and later generations through National Service.

The most distinguished was Ted (Frederick David) who was awarded the DCM for distinguished service during World War I.

It was recorded in the London Gazette on 21 Oct 1918:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

No 681 Corporal F D Johnson, DCM: This N.C.O. has rendered good service as Signalling Corporal, being constantly out under heavy enemy fire of all descriptions, repairing and maintaining communication lines. He has continually set a very fine example of courage in the face of danger, and devotion to duty at all times, and he has distinguished himself by his behaviour in action, during severe fighting, when he was wounded.

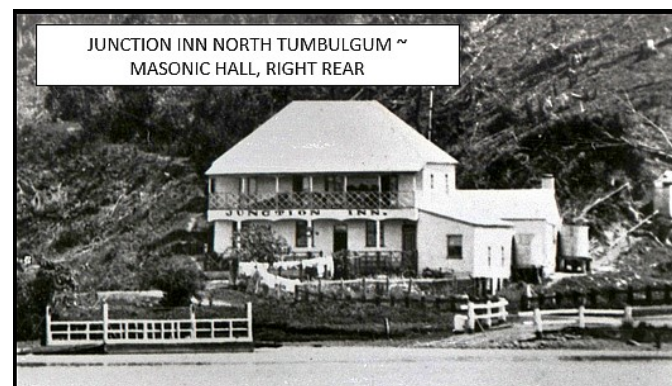
It was an absolute tragedy that he drowned on the Tweed bar on 15 March 1939 when his trawler

Wandabelle capsized in what was to be his last trip to sea prior to him returning to armed services duty in World War II to train new soldiers in the signalling skills he developed in the previous war. He was 42 years of age. He left a widow and five children, with a sixth born a few weeks later.

Church

Family members have and continue to make considerable contributions to their respective churches. Whilst originally Church of England (Anglican), with marriage into other religions, these contributions now extend to the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Uniting (Methodist) and Presbyterian faiths. Originally family members played host to visiting clergy of the Church of England Home Mission District of Condong. I co-wrote the history of the Anglican Church in the Tweed Valley and have been a church organist for 54 years. Another member, Michael Alcock, has been ordained a Catholic Priest. Uncle Clarrie served as an organist at the Methodist Church for many years.

Masonic Lodge



JUNCTION INN NORTH TUMBULGUM ~
MASONIC HALL, RIGHT REAR

Fifteen men met on 20 Jan 1885 at the Junction Hotel North Tumbulgum to form the district's first Masonic Lodge; Frederick George Johnson and his two eldest sons, William and George were amongst the foundation members. From this Lodge, they then became foundation members of Lodge Pacific (Tweed Heads) and Lodge Coolangatta. Since then, members have been involved with Lodges, Uki, Dawn and Tweed Daylight at Tweed Heads and Lodge Remembrance, formed after World War II. William became the 'grand old man' of Lodge Coolangatta, and Clarence and Ross Johnson have served as organists for most of the lodges. Family members were also active with the Manchester Unity Lodges.

Education

High emphasis was always placed on education with many of the older members never having much opportunity. To support families, they took on executive roles within the Parents and Citizens Associations and assisted in the organization and

conduct of family school gatherings. Their 'home' school was Condong and three generations served as P & C Executive. Current family members have taught at district school for many years.

Tweed River Agricultural Society

Members have been involved with the Society since their arrival on the Tweed in 1884 as exhibitors and on committee. Eric George (Pat) and his wife Dorothy received Life Membership. One family member is now the fourth generation to retain membership with those attending now in their sixth generation.

Status quo

50 YEARS AGO ~ LOADED TRUCKS WAITING TO LEAVE THE JOHNSON FARMS



With small acreage farming declining as a profitable venture and fourth generation family members diversifying into higher educational opportunities, global activities and other career opportunities, the last of the Johnsons ceased farming in 1978 and the properties at Johnson's Creek have all been absorbed into larger holdings of adjoining farms owned by the Lizzio, Hibbard and North families.

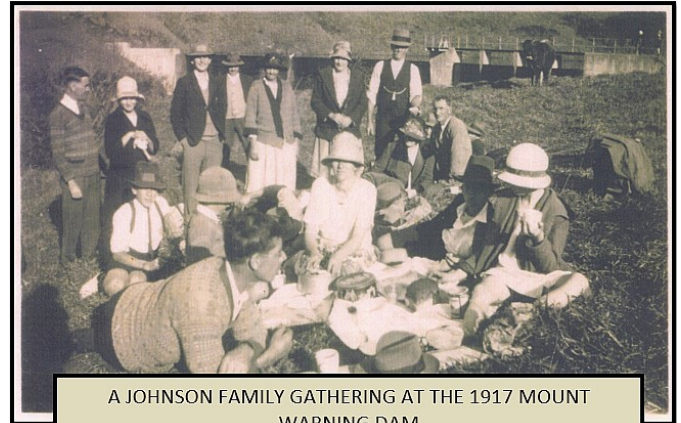
This brought to an end nearly one hundred years of involvement in the cane and dairying industries on the Tweed. Sections of the farms [Dan's in Colonial Drive and Pat's (E.G's.) dairy and piggery east of McLeod Street] have been subdivided into housing blocks.

My father Frederick William, son of Daniel and Mary Ellen, married Edna Adams on 16 Oct 1936. Edna, the eldest daughter of Albert and Edith Adams, was born in Fiji while her father was



"LOMA-LAGI", CONDONG ~ LIFE LONG HOME OF FRED AND EDNA, ROSS AND MARILYN JOHNSON

stationed at Nasouri on the Rewa River to train Fijians and Indians in the art of sugar boiling. He returned to employment at the Condong Mill when Edna was aged 12yo. Fred worked in the cane industry as a carpenter, sugar boiler and shift supervisor his entire working life, residing on the property Loma-Lagi [Fijian for 'Heavenly Place'] all his life until his death on 22 Jun 1990. The home had a reputation for being well-kept, surrounded by beautiful gardens.



A JOHNSON FAMILY GATHERING AT THE 1917 MOUNT WARNING DAM

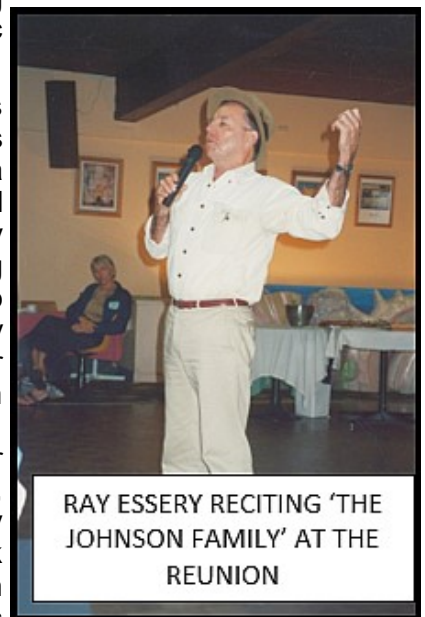
(CIRCA 1927 ~ DAN JOHNSON ~ BACK ROW, RIGHT END)

My sister, Marilyn, and I enjoyed a wonderful family life growing up on this farm amidst cane fields with grandparents and lots of family members and friends close by. This was a life that few experience in today's expanding global world with families spreading much further than before.

The Johnson involvement in Condong still continues with Graham Johnson and his wife Eileen conducting the historic Condong Store.

Eunice Higgins (nee Johnson) has just organised a very successful 125th anniversary of the Condong School on 28 Sep 2013, with many Johnsons and their school friends in attendance.

Across the wider Tweed District, many family members still work or live in retirement. Others love to return on vacation.



RAY ESSERY RECITING 'THE JOHNSON FAMILY' AT THE REUNION

On the weekend of the 7/8 Jun 2003, in excess of one hundred and fifty members gathered at Condong to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the

family's arrival on the Tweed. Well known Northern Rivers bush poet Ray Essery, related through marriage and a work colleague of several of the family members, penned this special poem for the occasion. As in the poem, 'when the lads in Condong Mill made the sugar boil', Ray, along with several of the Johnsons, performed that very task!

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

*This Johnson family has come together
To reminisce and smile
And talk about days gone by
When we walked that country mile.
When life was oh so slow
And a quid was just a quid.
When a gallon of petrol went a long way
And we done those things we did.*

*Remembering those days six months each year
When the cutters sweated and toiled
When the lads in Condong Mill
Made the sugar boil.
As river captains sang their song
And fought against the tide
With sugar cane loaded deep
Two and three punts wide.*

*And when the sun found Mount Warning
In those early morning hours
Dairy farmers would whistle the dog
And round up the cows.
Then little kids would do their chores
In the misty morning cool.
Then hurry off on horse or foot
Up to that old bush school.*

*Banana growers would curse and swear
As they made the wires sing
While bending backs on mountain slopes
To bring the harvest in
While in the valleys far below
Whip birds cracked their tune
In harmony, through gum trees
With the warming breeze's croon.*

*Now the Johnson name will carry on
From generations past*



*And through future generations
That legacy will last
So now let's laugh and reminisce
Smile and talk a while
For life's road is never ending*

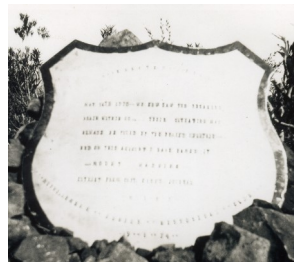
There's still many a country mile.

This family biography was compiled from family archives as a tribute to the contributions made by members of the family to this district, by fourth generation member, Ross Johnson, in October 2013. The family is now in its seventh generation on the Tweed.

Mystery Unravelled

Thanks very much to Mary Lee Connery for her research in identifying the mystery photo. One less mystery in the world and one more historic story restored!

Last year's calendar produced by the Friends of the Tweed Regional Museum asked for



*The plaque unveiled!
(TRM M11-19)*

information about a photograph. It is in fact one of three in the Museum's collection, taken on Wollumbin / Mt Warning on 9 Aug 1924 to record the unveiling of a plaque in the presence of a hundred students from the Murwillumbah Intermediate High School

Junior Historical Society. Thanks to the National Library of Australia's website Trove, the story of the pictures can be told again.

As was the custom of the times, the children travelled in trucks, drivers unnamed, and the teachers and the School Inspector Mr S Trasker MA, in cars driven by Mr Proudfoot and Mr Stuart. The convoy left Murwillumbah while it was still dark. At Dum Dum, they were met by Mr McCallum who lent horses for the teachers to ride.

With no bridge across the Tweed at that time, the trucks had to be roped across the river which must have been an interesting enterprise. The vehicles were left at Hall's Farm and the expedition proceeded on foot and horseback. Breakfast was eaten at the appropriately named Breakfast Creek at 8 am and the Mountain climbed.

The track to the summit had been cut in 1921 by a team of volunteers organised by Mr Willie Choy of the Empire Café. These men worked weekends for three months, sometimes having to blast through fallen trees. Mr Choy had promised to feed them so their meals were delivered up the mountain by children who were paid in lollies.

By 10.30am all were assembled to unveil the memorial tablet to commemorate the sighting of Mt Warning by Captain Cook on 16 May 1770. The tablet was made by the "manual boys" at the School. It was an engraved zinc shield mounted on wood, bearing this extract from Cook's diary of the day:

"We now saw the breakers within us...Their situation within us...Their situation may always be found by the peaked mountain...and on this account I have named it Mt Warning."

There were speeches of course. Mr Trasker congratulated the teachers and children for having started their Club, the first of its kind in Australia. He then asked the children to turn towards the sea



There were speeches.... (TRM M11-20)

and urged them "to face the dangers of the Sea of Life with the fortitude, patience and high sense of duty which were the keynotes of Cook's life."

After a vote of thanks to all who helped, the party went back to Breakfast Creek for a large lunch and the cars and lorries delivered them all back to town by 4.30pm.

Sadly, the memorial had a very brief life due to damage by vandals and was eventually removed.

This trip contributed to the push to recognise the mountain for its beauty and its flora and fauna. And its tourism possibilities, of course. In 1909, 500 hectares around Mount Warning had been gazetted as a place for public recreation and reserved from logging to protect its environmental treasures. It was gazetted in 1967 as a National Park and in 2006 the Bundjalung name Wollumbin was restored to acknowledge the area's significance for the original people and now the mountain bears both names.

Sources

Tweed Daily 1921; Aug 1924; Dec 1925 [Trove]

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 Timeline until the October 2018 edition. Here are eighteen more of the 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.

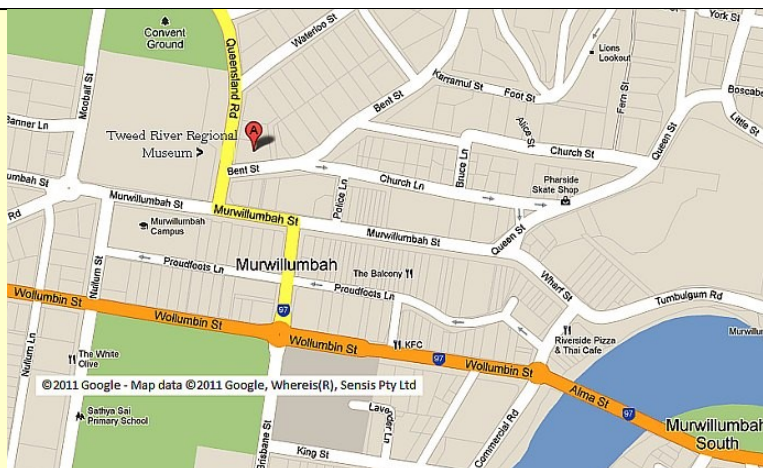
CONTACT US: Phone: (02) 6670 2273

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

FB: <http://www.facebook.com/murwillumbahhistory>

Email: enquiries@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au

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.