

TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 1

The 2022-23 Committee

The 2023-24 Committee of the Murwillumbah Historical Society met on Monday, 15 May 2023. The Society's new President, Beverley Fairley, champing at the bit, launches the Society into a new year with new things to do, and places to see.

The Committee is Beverley, Max Boyd (Vice-President), Joan Cuthel (Research Manager), David Holston (Bookshop Manager), Betty Hamill (Events Manager), Ian Batten, David Taylor, and Māris Bruzgulis (Secretary).

The Society's achievements against the 2022 Service Agreement with the Tweed Regional Museum were reported, meeting and exceeding the standard for the availability of our members during Museum opening hours indicator; providing digitisation services to the amount of 976 electronic documents totalling 1.26 gigabytes (that's a lot!); and providing research services to the community. The only minus was not picking up items from the Museum accession list to research. All in all, deserving a pat on the back for a job well done.

The Committee is looking for a Treasurer. If you can help or know of someone who has a bit of spare time to lend a hand, let us know. In respect of other financial matters, the Society is looking to provide electronic point of sale services in addition to cash transactions.

The research items reported at the meeting were people asking about details of their families, the building date of houses, and photos of the district. The specific enquiry in respect of this last item was for photos of the old Mooball servo. Two other queries were about the Murwillumbah power station and electricity supply and brochures about Kingscliff, Pottsville, Tyalgum and Burringbar requested by the Horseless Carriage Club of America for their 8th International Tour in the Tweed Valley next year.

Watch out for a date to be announced, when members and friends of the Society will receive an invitation to take part in a tour of the Fingal and Chinderah cemeteries, guided by Uncle Franc Krasna. Uncle Franc was at the markets and shared his knowledge of the district in the brief time together. Given the depth of his knowledge, the tour should be a bottler.

What We Do ...

Sunday Market

Every fourth Sunday of the month, the Society hoists its banner and engages with the passing parade at the Tweed River Agricultural Society's Sunday market. In May we met a descendant of the family that ran the Condong shop from about 1900 to the 1970s. We were asked about the location of the Tyalgum coal mine. And we sent a couple of people a copy of the twenty-minute film from the thirties titled The Banana. And we also sold a few books, among them the reprint of the Tyalgum history book.

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What We Do ... (continued)

Research, Scanning, Writing

The Society offers members the opportunity to work with the Collection of the Tweed Regional Museum. There are items to digitise, research to be carried out, and the results to be recorded.

A Standing Invitation

We're all looking forward to hearing from you and welcoming you as you take an active part in your Society.

History in a Box

There are people whose connection to the Tweed is of short duration. This, of course, is to be expected in the present time when tourism looms large as a source of economic well-being. But people also come to work and then move on. One such example was provided by a visitor to the Museum who had four postcards of district views written by a young man who was employed at the Condong sugar mill in the early years of the twentieth century. Septimus (Sep) Allum was writing to his 'Darling mother' Lucy Charlotte) and a Miss A H Edwards (Alice Hallum) in July, before 1910. The former is told about the 'lovely' country of the Condong Range, and the latter about the beginning of the 'crushing' on 29 July, as well as union organisers from Queensland coming to form a sugar workers' union. A third card to Alice, now the wife of an older brother Clare Ivan (their marriage was registered in 1910), describes Condong as 'very slow' and going to Tweed Heads to the pictures. The last card in this little collection, dated 4 July 1912, is from Sep's brother Claude to Alice (Mrs C I Allum) to say that he is leaving the district on the *Woollongbar* [sic] the following Saturday. After a [p]leasant holiday.

Initial research is that the Allums were a Sydney-based family. Sep, as could be expected from his full name, was the seventh child. He was writing to his mother Lucy Charlotte, née Hunter. Alice H Edwards was his older brother's, Clare Ivan's, wife-to-be. Their marriage was registered in 1914.

An aside - a random article appearing in Trove relates that another brother, Leslie Lorne, lost his 15-year-old son Mervyn to a shark attack in 1927.

Word of the Day

GRAMMA. The gramma squash or pumpkin is the heart and soul of the gramma pie: "The best kind of pie in the world...but it takes the people of the North Coast to make them" (according to Alex McDonald, quoted in the *Maitland Daily Mercury* in 1936).

The 1885 recipe in the *Australian Town and Country Journal* is as follows:

Boil the gramma like pumpkin, drain off the water, pour the fruit into a pie dish, add a little lemon juice or essence of vanilla. Beat the yolks of four eggs very well, add a pint of milk, sugar to taste, pour over and bake in a slow oven. Whisk the whites of eggs, sweeten, and lay on top of the pudding when it is done. Gramma makes a very good tart, first boiled, sweetened and covered with short paste.

Locally, in 1949, Angus Bros. at Murwillumbah was advertising: 'MOTHER! Does Your Family Enjoy GRAMMA PIE? We have in stock excellent quality GRAMMAS at 3d per lb. Leave your Order To-day.

Read more about Gramma pie here: <https://australianfoodtimeline.com.au/1885-gramma-pie-recipe/>.