

# TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 7 +

## Murwillumbah Historical Society

*is set to experience...*

# A Tiny Taste of Tyalgum

<https://www.atinytasteoftyalgum.com/>

20TH JANUARY 2024 11am - 11pm



*This is where you'll meet us!!!*

- |                        |                |          |
|------------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1 OVAL STAGE           | 5 MUSEUM VAN   | BUS STOP |
| 2 STALLS               | 6 BELL TENT    | PARKING  |
| 3 CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES | PUBLIC TOILETS |          |
| 4 BEER GARDEN          |                |          |

MUSICIANS - BANDS - POETRY - CHILDRENS  
ACTIVITIES - ART EXHIBITION - HISTORY DISPLAY  
BUSINESS STALLS - DELICIOUS FOOD AND DRINKS  
5:30pm Caller-Led Bush Dance

## History in a Box

A cursory search of Trove brings up some interesting stories around and about Tyalgum.

This report is from the 1870 flood:

'... in, a labouring man started from Kynumboon, intending to walk overland to the Richmond River; the poor fellow, however, on reaching Talgum, at the head of the Tweed River, about twenty miles distant, owing to the heavy downpour of rain, found himself hemmed in by the waters, and with little to sustain life. Here the unfortunate traveller was doomed to remain a fortnight without food, subsisting upon a kind of nut; which he found in the bush, and when discovered by the mail boy, who was endeavouring to travel with the mails, the poor fellow was living upon some grass which he had just gathered and boiled, but was rather emaciated in appearance, whilst his intellect showed signs of being affected, from long exposure and hardship endured in such weather. Upon receipt of the news the constable stationed at the Tweed went out with provisions, but failed to reach the spot, owing to the spread of waters. Mr. Gray then despatched a blackfellow, but he too returned, having been unsuccessful. As soon as practicable, however, the constable again started out, when he managed to reach Talgum, and quickly supplied the poor traveller's wants, who he found was too weak to walk back, so he was compelled to leave him there; and he was still at Talgum on Tuesday, the 22nd March, then very weak, and presented a strange appearance; yet he reported himself recovering, but the progress he was making in that respect was evidently very slow.'

[*Evening News*, 5 April 1870, p. 3.]

Good intentions often seem to run up against the profit motive:

'On Saturday (4<sup>th</sup> [November 1890], Forest Reserve No. 4353, otherwise called Talgum, was visited. This reserve embraces an area of about 75,000 acres, and lies along the Macpherson Range, on the borders of Queensland. With regard to this reserve Mr. Brown [Director-General of Forests] says: "This is an excellent forest, and the land to a large extent is only suitable for forest purposes; and more especially should be retained for this purpose owing to its being the catchment area for several of the principal feeders of the Tweed River. As the natural surface waters of this part of the country form one of its most important features, the retention of the forest clothing of the land is a matter of imperative necessity." On Saturday evening the party camped on a nice open flat; and on Sunday morning a rambling course was taken through the reserve, passing over the main bank of the middle arm of the Tweed River; thence on to the north bank of the Burrell Creek, crossing the Cudgenbill Creek. The reserve appears to form a regular hollow, with immense mountains up to 4000ft in height on three sides of it. A very large quantity of cedar trees have been removed from this reserve, and there are not many now remaining. On the Sunday evening a halt was made at the Bryangum Inn; and on the next morning (the 6th) an inspection was made of the timbered Crown lands on the Corambune Creek, locally known as "the home of the red cedar." Here a cedar tree was measured, which contained no less than 17,000 superficial feet of timber. An old timber-getter estimates that at least 50,000,000 of cubic feet of cedar have already been removed from the Tweed River forests, which, reckoned at an average of 20s per 100ft, gives a value of no less than .£500,000.'

[*Evening News*, 1 November 1890, p. 3.]

And sad events were also part of the experience of life...:

### 'A TERRIBLE DEATH

A fatal accident occurred on Thursday afternoon, by which a youth named William Karkow, aged 17, was killed instantly, his chest being completely crushed. It appears that he was hauling cedar down from Talgum, about 15 miles from Murwillumbah, along with his employer, Mr John Quan. Mr. Quan was within a few yards of him at the time, driving the leaders, and deceased was driving the polars, when the wagon jumped off a stone and cannoned against a tree, pinning the unfortunate youth between and crushing him to death. So rough is the nature of the country where the accident occurred that the body had to be carried eight miles before reaching a conveyance.'

[*Warwick Examiner and Times*, 28 November 1896, p. 5.]

## You are invited to **Our Next Meeting** at...

**1:00 pm on Monday, 19 February 2024, at the Society's Tony Clarke Research Room at the Tweed Regional Museum.**

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