

TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 7

Keeping You Up-to-Date

This edition of *Timelines In fifteen minutes* begins with the sad news of the death of Society Member Mary Lee Connery.

Vale, Mary Lee Connery

We are so sorry to see the passing of such a valued member of our Society. Mary Lee was a good friend and contributed so much to our local history knowledge. She will be missed.

The Society's committee held its last meeting for 2023. Looking back, this has been an active year for the Society. There have been visits to the Chinderah and Fingal cemeteries, lunch at Mooball's Hotel Victory, and setting up a stall at the Tweed River Agricultural Society Show.

We look back in order to look forward. At the meeting, Beverley Fairley discussed ways of building on this momentum. One proposal is a dramatization of some of the old court cases that have been held at the Murwillumbah Court House, a project that could come to fruition during Law Week (May) or History Week (September) in 2024. This will also give the Society the opportunity to interact with other community groups, building a wider awareness of the importance not just of preserving, but understanding the history of the place where we live.

The Society is now set up for electronic funds transfer at the point of sale (EFTPOS) payments via Square.

Research remains a mainstay of the Society's work, Joan Cuthel received eight enquiries. While Facebook posts provide nostalgic snapshots of the past, Joan is the go-to person to get into the nitty-gritty of the history of families and home and hearth.

Lastly, but not least, the committee had the sad duty of accepting David Holston's resignation from the committee. It expressed appreciation of his long-time contribution to the committee, as well as wishing him well with the research he is undertaking.

At the Show

As Beverley Fairley reported at the committee meeting – 'The committee turned up and talked to all comers'. The Society thanks the Tweed Regional Museum Director and her staff for their assistance in preparing the Museum on Wheels for the Society's stall, and to Shelley at the show bag stall who helped with supplying electricity when the generator failed.

Again, in Bev's words, being at the show was 'a success and worth doing'.

(If anyone is interested in seeing *The Banana*, the under the radar hit of the show, please drop the Society a line at the email address below.)

Our Next Meeting

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

CONTACT US: Phone: (02) 6670 2273

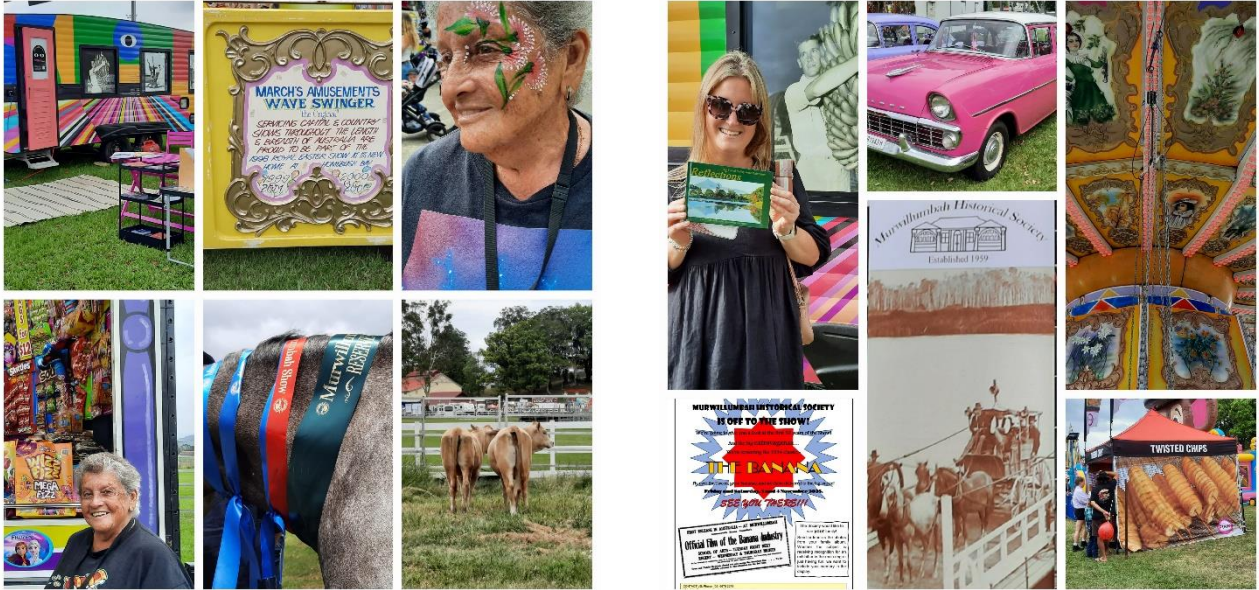
Web: <http://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

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

Email: editor@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au

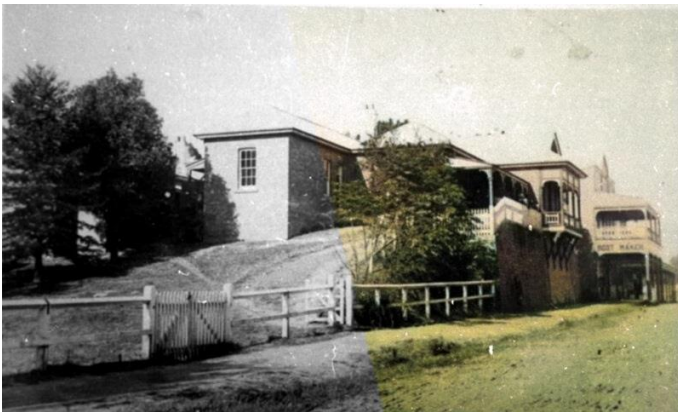
Mail: C/- Tweed Regional Museum, 2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah NSW 2484 or PO Box 373, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Scenes from the Show



History in a Box

Thinking about the dramatization of old court cases...



Murwillumbah Courthouse.
Tweed Regional Museum, Photograph; Circa 1900; pp166.

In 1865 the Police District of Tweed River was gazetted as the responsibility of the Clerk of Petty Sessions appointed for the Police District of Richmond River. The Governor of New South Wales appointed 'Murwillumbah Reserve, Tweed River, to be a place for the holding of Courts of Petty Sessions' on 16 October 1869. In 1871 James Bray is recorded as the Acting Clerk of Petty Sessions appointed to be the Registrar of the Small Debts Court at Tweed River. In 1876 Joshua Bray began a two year as Police Magistrate in the Tweed River Police District at Murwillumbah and Cudgen. He held this post until he was retired in 1897.

Herewith an example of the work of the Police Magistrate – a case from November 1923.

HE WAS SURPRISED "I AM DYING FOR A DRINK." Constable's Inopportune Visit.

When Constable Ferguson met Percy George Wooldridge in the Terminus Hotel, South Murwillumbah, Percy said that he was surprised to see the constable in this part of the world. The surprise was by no means pleasant, for the experience cost him a fine of £5, with 8/ [sic] costs, in default three months' [sic] gaol, at the Murwillumbah Police Court yesterday. There is a prohibition order in operation against Mr. Woolridge, and it was this "fact", that led to his having to face the magistrate. He was not present when his name was called, and the case was heard in his absence.

Constable Ferguson deposed that on the day in question, he saw accused in the bar of the hotel. He said to accused: "What are you doing here? Don't you know there is a prohibition order out against you? Accused replied: "Yes, but I am dying for a drink. I never thought I would meet you in Murwillumbah."

To the Bench: I have known accused for about two years, at Kyogle, Lismore and Murwillumbah.

At this stage accused put in an appearance and addressed the bench. "You are just in time to pay your fine, young man," was the greeting accorded him by Mr. E. A. May, P.M.. Accused said that he had no money and was granted 24 hours to pay.



Murwillumbah Courthouse.
Photograph; Unknown; Circa 1925; M11-16.