

TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 9

It's that time of year – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING time!

The Murwillumbah Historical Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 15 April 2024 at the Tweed Regional Museum at 1:00 pm. Members will have received notice of the meeting and the nomination form for the committee, as well as a copy of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting. Remember, if you have not done so already, please renew your membership of the Society for 2024/2025.

Around and about...

Beverly Fairley, the Society's President, addressed an interested group of seniors at the M-Arts precinct hall. She spoke about the origins of and the genesis of the present Regent Theatre. When the old Regent Theatre in Murwillumbah South burnt down in 1945, the owner of the chain of which it was a part took the opportunity to build a new theatre in its present location. While post-war austerity measures delayed construction, it was finally opened in 1947. Since then it has played an important role in Murwillumbah, culminating in its present incarnation as a key element of the M-Arts precinct.

Social Activities

... and the Beginning of 2024 - continued

Betty Hamill has asked the Society committee and members to consider the possibility of organising some quieter historical get-togethers, away from the hurly-burly of hotels or lunch venues. Are there places you would like to visit? Gain an insight about their history? We would love to hear your ideas. Even better, come to the Annual General Meeting and put them before the assembly.

Timelines

At last, after a hiatus of a year, *Timelines* is back. [Volume 11, Number 3](#) contains Diana Eriksen's memories of Wollumbin Street in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, a short article on West End Street, information about Tweed Valley doctors to 1920, and a 'Back Page' piece on medical reputations.

Corrigendum

An apology

The gremlins wrought havoc with Beverly Fairley's name in our last issue. Sincerest apologies for the sub-standard proof reading. The Editor.

Our Next Meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1:00 pm on Monday, 18 March 2024, at the Society's Tony Clarke Research Room at the Tweed Regional Museum.

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History in a Box

Seeing double

Three-dimensional imagery is a perennial goal of picture makers. During the latter half of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth this was achieved by stereoscopic photographs. Cameras were invented to take two pictures simultaneously. When developed, mounted on a card, and then inserted into a stereoscopic viewer, this allowed the user to see depth in what were in reality two flat images. Ah, the wonders of the human mind and its infinite abilities to delude its possessor.

The Tweed Regional Museum has acquired a digital collection of these images, 158 in number. The Museum notes that the photographer is 'Douglas Solomons' (though given that the recorded dates on most of the photographs are from 1897 to 1901, he would have been aged from seven to eleven when they were taken). A substantial number are inscribed 'L.S.', more than likely Louis Solomon.



Many, but not all of the stereoscopes, have initials (the photographer's?); a location; and year, and sometimes day or date, of the photograph. Very rarely are the subjects identified. There are four other stereoscopes that name Crystal Creek as the location, one with the initials 'E.S.' and two with 'L.S.'. The single image for these appears in the thumbnails. There is no indication as to the order of photographing.



Louis Solomon, Douglas' father, was an avid amateur photographer, as attested by a 1914 *Tweed Daily* article advising that he was a prime mover in the creation of a photographic club in Murwillumbah. (A large number of the images with the initials 'L.S.' are titled 'Xmas Camp 1901'; they appear to be a record of the Solomon family's annual excursions to Fingal, where they set up tents and lived between the Tweed River and the Coastline during December). Louis was a merchant in Murwillumbah, trading under the banner of H A (Harry Alexander) Solomon (Harry died in 1883). He was also a property and land-owner. He built housing adjacent to Lavender (or Murwillumbah) Creek that over time came to be called 'Solomons Row'. These dwellings were sold and relocated in 1920 after the Murwillumbah Municipal Council had received complaints about their state ('a menace to the general health of the community'). This coincided with Louis' decision to move to Brisbane to be closer to his son Douglas, who had been wounded during the Great War and was being treated at a hospital there. When Douglas visited Murwillumbah in 1923, the *Daily* wrote that though he had 'lost the use of his legs at the war, [he] travels about in a motor cycle side car, which is specially fitted to meet his case'. Louis died in 1933, being remembered as a general storekeeper, auctioneer, and farmer, who during the early days of Murwillumbah '[knew] where and how far to extend credit to the impecunious settler waiting for his annual cane cheque or on the sale of his timber raft'.