

# TIMELINES

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## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of *Timelines*, the newsletter of Murwillumbah Historical Society.

This edition has it all – nature, crime, and a holiday, both by the sea and by the river.

Henry James leads with his take on the Coolamon tree. A Tweed Regional Museum Facebook post from 2020 names it as the Council's floral emblem. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, a truism that also applies to the many names given to this tree.

Greg Fox follows with a shocking tale from the 1930s. There is arsenic, but no lace – just scandal. It would seem coroners and prosecutors sometimes jump to ill-considered conclusions, at least in the view of the jury sitting on the trial of Noel Westwood.

The third article showcases part of a collection of stereoscopic photographs found in an old biscuit tin. Our article focuses on thirty-eight of them. They record a family Christmas holiday camp at Fingal in 1901 photographed by Louis Solomons.



A stereoscopic photograph, probably taken by Louis Solomons, titled 'Landing for the Camp'. The month is unclear, though the recorded year is 1897.

Tweed Regional Museum Collection, MUS2024.1



## 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](mailto:trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au)



# The naming of Durobby

Henry James, a new member of the Society, is the author of this interesting article on a unique tree.

Durobby is arguably Murwillumbah's signature tree. It has an extremely limited natural range - from the Big Scrub to the Southern Gold Coast. It is also called Coolamon, Rose Apple, Robby and Watermelon Tree according to renowned forester and rainforest expert Alex Floyd. Durobby, Robby and Coolamon are probably names of Aboriginal origin. The modern scientific name is *Syzygium moorei*. Given its limited range, it is notable how soon after the commencement of European exploration it was distinguished as a species and its presence was recorded.

Charles Moore was the NSW government botanist and director of the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens for most of the latter half of the 19th century. He undertook a number of expeditions to collect plant material, including at least one to the 'Clarence and Richmond River districts' in 1861 (a journey that was recorded in a letter from Dr George Bennett to Sir William Hooker, also prominent botanists). That journey probably included the Tweed, because he collected leaf samples of Durobby that he sent to Ferdinand von Mueller, the chief botanist in Victoria and a busy plant taxonomist.

In 1863 Surveyor Isaiah Rowling made a record of a number of trees that he variously called 'Coolman Tree', 'Coolum Tree' and 'Bastard Coolman Tree'. The 'Coolum Tree' was at Boat Harbour. The 'Coolman Trees' were at Byangum. The records were made in the course of undertaking the first thorough, instrumental survey of the Tweed River to

its tidal limits. The trees may have been Durobbys, given that 'Coolamon' is one common name still applied to the tree, and that Durobbys are still to be found near these locations, but there is some doubt (see below).

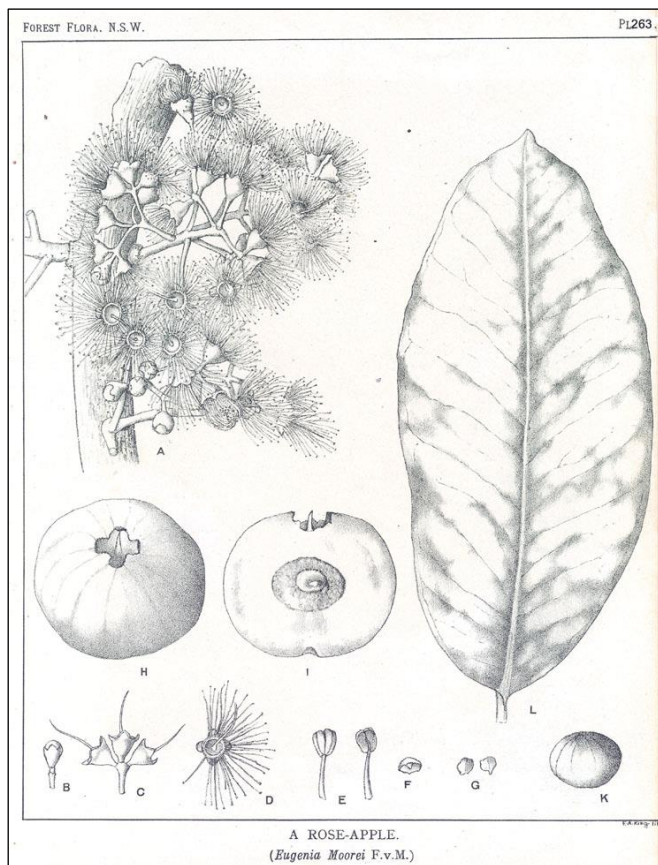
On the basis of Moore's leaf samples and description, Von Mueller duly gave Durobby a scientific name that was published in 1865 in a paper titled 'Fragmenta V 32'. He called it *Eugenia moorei* - slotting it into an already established genus (*Eugenia*) with a world-wide distribution. The modern-day generic name (*Syzygium*) was also in

use at the time and was even then an available alternative. The specific name (*moorei*) was of course in honour of the man who had collected the leaf samples. Von Mueller's description was quite short but includes Moore's notes on the tree's height (80 feet) and location (Tweed River).

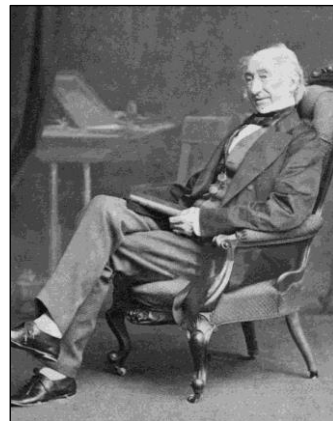
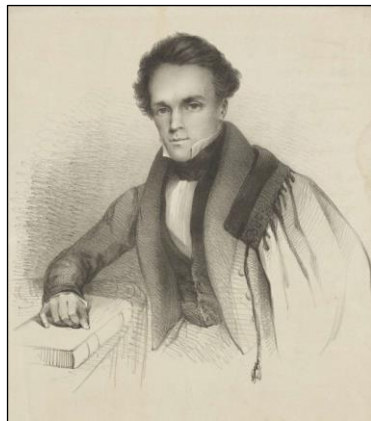
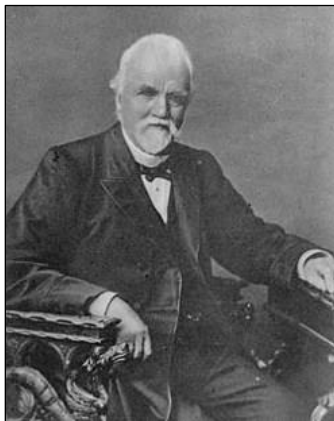
In 1866, just a year later, in a publication jointly written by George Bentham and von Mueller titled *Flora Australiensis*, Vol. 3, *Eugenia moorei* was relegated to the status of an Australian occurrence of a South East Asian species called *Eugenia jambolana* that had first

been named in 1787 by the French botanist Lamarck. The confusion probably arose because Moore's original sample did not include flowers or the very distinctive fruit (more on this below).

In a paper published in 1870, Moore adopted the name *Eugenia jambolana*, gave it the common or Aboriginal name 'Durobbi' and thus was apparently the first to publish a link between scientific and common names. He did not give it any alternative common names based on variations of 'Coolman'. Confusingly, he did list another unnamed species of



Botanical illustration of Durobby from Forest Trees of New South Wales



Faces of some of the players in the naming of *Syzygium moorei* (the images are not necessarily contemporaneous with the events in this article. From left to right: Charles Moore (State Library of New South Wales), George Bennett (National Library of Australia), William Hooker (Wikipedia), and Ferdinand von Mueller (State Library Victoria).

*Eugenia* from the Richmond-Tweed with the Aboriginal name 'Coolmin'.

Edwin Johnson was a surveyor who spent most of his working life in the Tweed. He used the name 'Duroby' at least as early as 1886 in a survey for a selection at Uki (see below). He used the same spelling (with only one 'b') in many plans of survey he made until well into the 20th century.

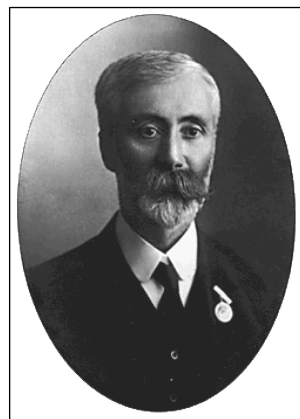
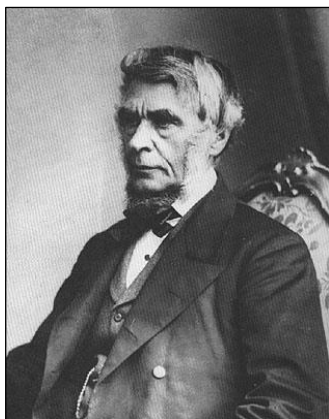
In 1899 the editors of a publication called the *Science of Man and Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia* sent out a call to provide lists of Aboriginal words and place names. They enlisted the help of government agencies including the Surveyor-General, the Police, the Mines Department and perhaps others. J. W. Martin, then the local Registrar in Murwillumbah, provided the word 'Durobby' identifying it as the name of a place and a species of tree. In the Mining Warden's submission of the time it was spelt 'Durobbi'. Tweed identity Joshua Bray provided the name 'Coolman' for a species of tree. None provided any further identifying

information about these trees. A Francis McQuilty from Lismore said that 'Coolman' was the same species of tree as 'Water Gum'. The latter is a name early surveyors often used, probably mostly for *Tristaniaopsis laurina*, *Syzygium floribundum* or *Syzygium francisii*. The latter two are closely related to Durobby, but sharp-eyed observers would easily tell them apart.

So by the turn of last century, 'Durobby' (or 'Duroby') had settled in as the common name for the tree. 'Coolmon' and its variants are in some doubt. When used, they were applied to other species. How the name 'Coolamon' then came to be commonly used as an alternative for 'Durobby' in the second half of the 20th century is a bit of a mystery. The fact that it is not now commonly used for any other species simply adds to the mystery.

But what about the scientific name *Eugenia jambolana*? In 1922 J. H. Maiden published Volume 7 of the *Forest Flora of NSW*. He notes that von Mueller was not happy with Bentham's assumption that *Eugenia jambolana* and *Eugenia moorei* were

More botanists. From left to right: George Bentham (Wikipedia), Joseph Maiden (Wikipedia), J. L. Boorman (The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust), and L. A. S. Johnson (Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria).





the same species. He translates von Mueller's original description (which was in botanical Latin) and in the process quite dishonestly and misleadingly adds a description of the fruit that was not in the original. Von Mueller said of the fruit: '*ignotus*' (unknown). It is important. The fruits are quite different in appearance and unlike *Eugenia jambolana* fruit, Durobby fruit are borne on old wood

species, and warned there was great doubt that North Queensland records were actually Durobby (he was right as it turns out). Maiden mentions that he collected specimens in the Tweed in the company of a J. L. Boorman (a co-worker from the Sydney Herbarium – not a Tweed local) and that he was aware of collections in the Tweed by an R. A. Campbell, who was a Tweed local. He also adopted



*Coolamon at the Tweed Shire Council chambers at Murwillumbah (Author provided).*

inside the canopy of the tree. Maiden knew this because he had seen fruiting trees. Von Mueller might well have become aware after the publication of *Fragmenta and Flora Australiensis*. If von Mueller and Bentham had known at the time they might not have bundled up the two species. In any event, Maiden opted to record Durobby as a separate

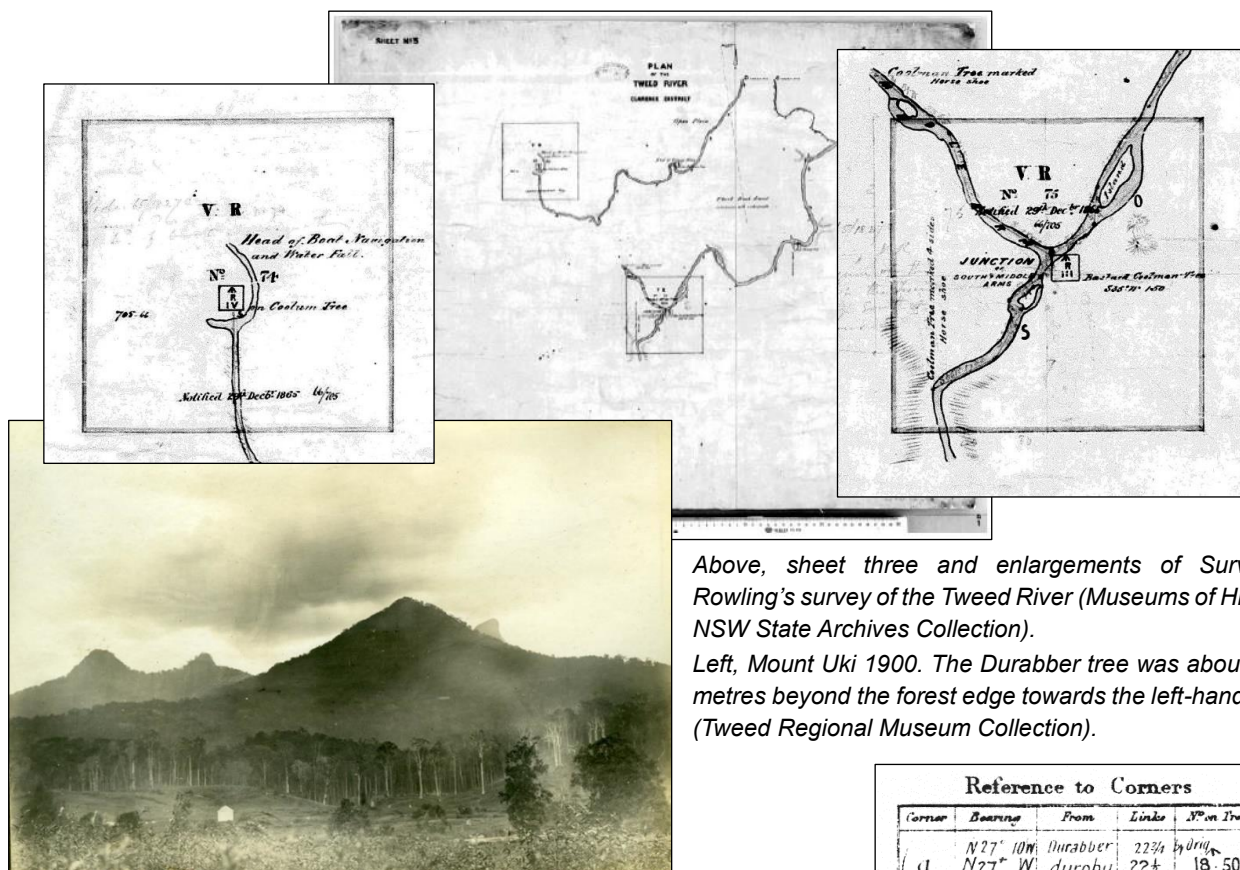
the modern spelling of 'Durobby'.

It was not until 1966 that L. A. S. Johnson proposed that Durobby's scientific name be changed from *Eugenia moorei* to *Syzygium moorei* (in a paper published in *Contributions of the NSW National Herbarium*).



Late in my research for this article I came across the work of surveyor C. W. Horneman. He had a particular flair for naming trees. In an 1884 survey of Portion 18 Parish of Wollumbin (near Uki) he named one tree 'Durabber'. When Surveyor Edwin Johnson undertook a survey adjacent two years later, he came across the so-called 'Durabber', chose to call it 'Duroby', but recorded both names in his plan. In a 1904 survey of the area Johnson simply called the same tree 'Duroby'. In a 1912 survey his plan says simply 'cor gone'.

In another survey at Eungella in 1884 (Portions 33-36 Parish of Wollumbin), Horneman again records 'Durabber' and also 'Coolooman', 'Cracker' and 'Chumbour'. His records of 'Durabber' and 'Coolooman' were within 250 metres of each other. Is this further evidence that 'Coolman' was used to refer to some tree other than 'Duroby'? As to 'Cracker' and 'Chumbour', their identities are likely to forever remain a mystery.



Above, sheet three and enlargements of Surveyor Rowling's survey of the Tweed River (Museums of History NSW State Archives Collection).

Left, Mount Uki 1900. The Durabber tree was about 500 metres beyond the forest edge towards the left-hand side (Tweed Regional Museum Collection).

Right, Surveyor Johnson's record of corner trees in his 1896 survey of the portion adjacent to Portion 18 – surveyed by C. W. Horneman in 1884 (Museums of History NSW State Archives Collection).

Reference to Corners				
Corner	Bearing	From	Links	N <sup>o</sup> in Tree
a	N 27° 10' W	Durabber	22 3/4	by drying
	N 27° W	duroby	22 1/2	18-50
b	S 9° E	brush	50	18-50
c	S 61° 17' W	do	17	50
d	N 4° 40' W	do	35	18, 50, 19

## Strange tales and true...

From 5 to 15 April, along the east coast, from Townsville to Melbourne and across to Adelaide, the press was aflutter with Charles Wynford Horneman's (who is mentioned in the article above) 'strange instructions for his funeral'. 'My coffin is to be tied on the back of a buggy, with a sack of chaff to form the foundation. My coffin is to be made in Warwick, Queensland, and is to have nothing to do with my funeral'. Some of his bequests betrayed an

unusual sensibility. A walking stick made from a tree broken during the battle of Waterloo, a snuff box presented to the deceased's aunt by Princess Wilhelmina of Denmark, and his toothpick and ear-cleaner made by Danish prisoners of war, given to his grandfather in 1806.

(By the way, if you live in Sydney and you want to see Horneman's will, you can catch a train and a bus to Penrith and see it for free. For people in the regions it costs \$50.00 to get a hard or digital copy).

# Who put arsenic in Tommy Westwood's tea?

*This article has been written by Greg Fox. He has kindly shared his research with the Society.*

A mysterious poisoning death. Followed by a sensational dying declaration. Allegations of extra-marital affairs. Financial impropriety within the household. Rumours of how and why the Murwillumbah businessman died were many...

What led to the poisoning death of John Thomas 'Tommy' Westwood at the family property at South Murwillumbah in 1932? The details of the cattle buyer's untimely passing from arsenic poisoning would shock the northern rivers community. Then a sensational murder trial in Lismore, almost 100 years ago, would become national news. The extraordinary details of the Westwood case would leave locals scratching their heads and seeking answers in the years that would follow...

## Events of the morning - Tuesday 3rd May 1932

"The lad got me ... He has been drinking a bit lately and I have roused on him." As one of the leading movers of livestock in the Tweed region, Tommy Westwood, 48, was a well-known figure in the northern rivers. Born at Parramatta in 1883, he moved to the far north coast of New South Wales in his early 20s to work in butchering and dairy at Billinudgel – 20 kilometres north of Byron Bay.

By 1918, Tommy and his wife Elizabeth, (originally from Bega) and sons Thomas and Noel, would relocate to a large property at Condong Road, South Murwillumbah. The town of Murwillumbah sits inland on the Tweed River, as the waterway snakes southeast from the coast. In these foothills of the McPherson Range lies a fertile subtropical valley with Mount Warning providing a picturesque backdrop. This lush, volcanic landscape is a perfect place to grow crop or feed livestock. In its early years Murwillumbah established itself as a centre for sugarcane growing and the refining of sugar. Then with the advent of refrigerated transport, the area expanded into dairy farming, with a Norco cheese and butter factory built.

Over the years Tommy continued to strengthen his reputation in cattle dealing and dispatch with larger Sydney firms. By 1932 he was a representative of A. W. Anderson carcass butchers, for their meat works at Byron Bay. Tommy also gained recognition in the region as an exhibitor in coastal show rings. He was a lover of horses and was often represented either by hack, pony or jumper in these events.

Mrs Westwood would later describe her husband as a "temperate man". Tommy had no obvious vices and worked hard to provide for his family. Townsfolk knew the Westwoods as upstanding members of the community. More importantly there was nothing out of the ordinary at their homestead in the days leading to the tragic Tuesday morning in early May.



*Noel Westwood.*

*Brisbane Truth, 29 May 1932.*

Noel, 19, was the early riser of the family. He had the responsibility for checking on the cows. A diligent farmhand and worker, he was his father's main offsider. The teenager and his older brother Thomas shared the veranda of the house as their sleeping quarters. Thomas, 21, was a chronic epileptic and described as being of 'unstable mind'. The Westwood home also had a long-standing lodger named Reuben Dunn. Also 19 years of age he was a teenage knockabout who worked in cattle

dealing and stock movement for Tommy. Dunn had lived with the family for six and a half years.

At around 5.00am on the morning in question, Mrs Westwood, 44, called out to Noel to make tea for her and Tommy. Noel prepared the tea in the kitchen after lighting the primus and getting the cups and water. This was known to be a familiar morning routine in the home. Once the tea was made Noel entered his parents' bedroom with the refreshment and placed it on their respective nightstands. He also bought in a scone for his mum. Noel then left the bedroom to go prepare his own breakfast.

Within a minute or two, Tommy called out for his youngest son. Noel returned to his parent's bedroom and on entering his father told him: "Throw this tea out and get me another cup." The teenager took the tea and went to the back door of the house. He threw the contents of the cup on the ground next to the rear steps.

Without much warning, Tommy became unwell, whilst still in bed. He proceeded to vomit into the chamber pot. His wife asked him what was wrong, and he stated alarmingly: "The tea burnt me from the throat to the stomach ... I am going to vomit." Mrs Westwood would later tell police that Tommy said the tea tasted funny. Sensing the seriousness of the situation, Mrs Westwood called out to her youngest son: "Dad is sick. Get 'Dr Eakin on the phone." The boys scrambled to find the doctor's phone number. Mrs Westwood sounded frantic over the phone as she told the doctor of her husband's illness: "Tom has terrible pains and I think he is poisoned".

'Dr Eakin arrived to find Tommy out back of the house on "unsteady legs", being violently ill. The doctor had the man come inside and sit on the bed. Tommy told 'Dr Eakin he drank some tea out of a saucer, and it tasted funny. The doctor then asked Noel to show him the cup and saucer his father had used that morning. The cup appeared to contain a small amount of moist sugar and at least a teaspoon of milky looking tea, which had a few small black flecks of powder. 'Dr Eakin surmised the gravity of the circumstances and ordered the seriously affected man to Sunnyside Private Hospital. As Tommy was leaving the house for the hospital with the doctor in tow, he turned to tell his wife: "I'm going out now. I don't think I'll be coming back."

Whilst being transported to hospital the doctor would ask the sick man what he thought had happened. Tommy answered matter of fact: "The lad got me." The doctor countered as to why he would say that about his youngest son. "He (Noel) has been drinking a drinking a bit lately and I have roused on him," said Tommy as he winced in excruciating pain. On arrival at the hospital the man was aggressively treated for possible metallic irritant poisoning, likely to be arsenic ingestion. The efforts of the treating doctors and nurses were in vain. Tommy Westwood was pronounced dead at 10am that morning. A post-mortem examination would be undertaken immediately by 'Dr Eakin and the medical staff on duty. Some of the deceased's organs were removed and a sample of urine taken for analysis. A small amount of vomit was also kept. Local police were called to investigate the suspicious circumstances of the cattle buyer's demise.

# **AGONISING DEATH in a TEA CUP**

## **WHOSE HAND PREPARED THE HELL BREW?**

Potent Poison In Cattle-Dealer's Morning Tea  
Sent Him Into Eternity

**SON CHARGED WITH CRUEL MURDER**



*After the inquest. Brisbane Truth headline, 29 May 1932.*

# DEATH OF THOMAS WESTWOOD

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## SON FOR TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE

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### LENGTHY EVIDENCE AT CORONER'S INQUIRY YESTERDAY

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*The Tweed Daily headline following the inquest, and its photograph of the Coroner, A. R. Black.*

*Tweed Daily, 26 and 27 May 1932.*



By the following morning, Tommy's cause of death was determined to be arsenic poisoning. Concentrations of the element were found in both the liver and the vomit of the deceased. The amounts discovered were likely to be fatal to a grown man.

So what is arsenic and why is it so toxic to humans? The metalloid is an odorless and tasteless poison. It is almost impossible to tell if it is present in food or water. By changing the functioning of over 200 enzymes at the cellular level it disrupts many chemical processes in the human body. On ingesting a large dose of arsenic, the victim will present initially with symptoms of food poisoning including vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and dehydration – then progresses to shock, heart arrhythmia, seizures and multiple organ failure.

Given the circumstances of the Westwood poisoning, son Noel became the prime suspect of the investigators. He was questioned at the hospital by Sergeant Robert Lisle, officer in charge of police at Murwillumbah. The Sergeant had already been furnished with information from Dr Eakin. Specifically, the last gasp verbal decree of the deceased that the "lad got me." The Westwood premises were also searched that same morning with the suspect in attendance. Police would subsequently find in a rear shed on the property a cardboard packet marked "poison", this being a quantity of arsenic. Noel's clothes from that morning were confiscated. A government analyst would

state at a coronial hearing later in the month that the young man had a spot of residual arsenic on the trousers he wore on the morning his father died. Traces of the deadly compound would also be found in the dirt forensically sampled from under teenager's fingernails.

Then after being detained by police, Noel provided an official statement at the police station - detailing the events of the morning of his dad's death. He strongly denied killing his father from the outset. He was adamant that he had not quarrelled with his father recently although did confirm that his father had spoken to him about the rumours of his drinking. Police appeared to be more interested in the talk of altered cheques within the household. Noel had earned his own living since he was 13. Still they questioned the teenager regarding four specific cheques from the previous month (April) which had been altered, albeit by somewhat small amounts. These cheques were drawn against Noel's personal account of which Tommy was co-signatory. It was thought that the father was upset with his son about this matter after being informed by at least two parties within the town. Was this motive for Noel to kill his father? Downplaying the significance of the financial issue was that the altering of the cheques would not financially hurt Tommy.

Nonetheless Noel was arrested by police on the Thursday for the felonious and malicious murder of his dad. Bail was refused. He would be remanded



to Grafton gaol till a coronial hearing later in the month at Murwillumbah. District Coroner Mr A. R. Black heard the Crown evidence, and he concluded there was sufficient evidence for the charges to hold. The murder trial would proceed and to Lismore later that year. This small-town tragedy would set the stage for the northern rivers trial of the century.

Within three days of Westwood tragedy, Mr A.W. Anderson of the Byron Bay canning works visited Murwillumbah. A meeting with Mrs Westwood would appear to be a most pressing concern. According to the Tweed Daily newspaper from Friday 6th May 1932, the visit was necessitated by Tommy's sudden passing. The business leader expressed

guilty before his Honour, Justice James, and empanelled jury. The Crown would be represented by Mr A. G. Hill, instructed by the Crown Solicitors Office. Mr T. P. MacMahon would appear for the defence, instructed by Messrs. Hynes and Elliot of Murwillumbah.

### ACUTE ARSENICAL POISONING

First witness called was 'Dr Matthew Eakin. The Westwood family doctor would confirm the cause of death as "acute arsenical poisoning" based on the amount of poison found in the liver (1.9 grains) and the vomit (29.2 grains) of Tommy Westwood. Mr MacMahon, counsel for the defence, would question the witness.



*Left: Justice James, who presided over Noel Westwood's trial; T. P. MacMahon defended Westwood. The Sydney Truth presented him in the middle image, the Brisbane Truth in that on the right.*

*Sydney Truth and Brisbane Truth, 25 September 1932.*

heartfelt regret to the widow. Mr Anderson paid tribute to Tommy for his significant contribution to his firm and farming in the region. He would meet with the widow on the Thursday to ensure the commercial arrangement was maintained, with Mrs Westwood announced as the firm's new Tweed representative. The business relationship would remain in place – uninterrupted.

### **The trial of Noel John Westwood – Summary of proceedings – 20th and 21st September 1932**

In the over-crowded Lismore Circuit Courtroom, the accused Noel Westwood would enter a plea of not

Mr. MacMahon: "Assuming there was arsenic in the tea which the deceased drank, it would not burn immediately, would it?"

'Dr Eakin: "No. Arsenic is tasteless."

The defence provided information to the court from an authority on poisons that arsenical poisoning did not show until at least 15 minutes after the poisoned in consumed.

Mr. MacMahon: "When the deceased vomited straight away did it not suggest to you that he must have taken poison some time previously."

'Dr Eakin: "That was the conclusion I came to."

The doctor would go on to explain that arsenic is not easily dissolved. 'Dr Eakin told the court he was aware that the accused worked regularly in cattle

dipping. He agreed that it would be impossible not to get arsenic dip solution on clothes or under their fingernails in minute quantities.



*Doctor Matthew John Eakin. NSW Medical Board registration photograph. Eakin's date of registration was 27 April 1925.*

*Museums of History NSW State Archives Collection.*

## REVOLTING STATEMENTS

Sergeant Robert Lisle, from the police at Murwillumbah, would take the stand next. The Sergeant confirmed the details of the search of the deceased's home late on the morning of the 3rd of May, in the company of Noel Westwood.

The witness said he took possession of some fluid found in the chamber pot in the main bedroom. Nothing resembling poison was found within this room. The accused told the police officer he did not know of any poisons being kept on the premises. Examinations were made of the utensils used for making tea at the home including the sugar basin, tea canister and milk measure.

Sergeant Lisle confirmed that Noel told him that after he had taken the tea into his parents' bedroom, his father called out to him, "throw this tea out and get me another cup". He told the police officer he

took the tea from his father and threw it out the back door. The Sergeant said that he took a sample of soil from where Noel had thrown the tea. The sample was then sent to a government analyst in Sydney.

A Sergeant Thornley would then give evidence about the interview that was conducted by him and an Inspector Woods, with Noel Westwood at the Murwillumbah Police Station, late on the 3rd of May. Westwood told the officers that before he gave his father the tea, he lit the Primus, got the water and the cups (which were upside down on the saucers) took them to the kitchen and made the tea there. When asked if anyone could have placed the arsenic in either the cups, saucers, tea, sugar or milk without his knowledge, the accused had replied: "No, unless they did it while I went on the verandah for a few moments to put my boots on."



*Detective-Sergeant Thornley.*

*Brisbane Truth, 25 May 1932.*

The Crown questioning of the witness would take a new direction as sensational allegations were put to the court. This was in relation to Noel Westwood being questioned by Sergeant Thornley in a train, near Rappville, on the 23rd of May, prior to the



coroner's hearing. Westwood told the police officer he had made a previous salacious statement to a Detective Keogh at Grafton about "dad and a woman." Sergeant Thornley confirmed he followed up on this line of inquiry. The next day he and Constable Crawford took a statement from the woman in question. The Sergeant said the statement was 'of a revolting nature' and making what was said public would serve no good purpose. Adding to his testimony, Sergeant Thornley would outline that he took a statement about this allegation from Mrs Westwood as well as the young man residing with the family, Reuben Dunn. Both statements were 'revolting' in their description as well. Under cross-examination from Mr MacMahon the Sergeant detailed part of the accused's police statement. In it, Noel Westwood outlined that prior to his father's untimely passing his parents frequently had quarrels about his dad running women about in the family car. One occasion, at approximately 12 o'clock at night, Noel stated he heard his mother and father arguing loudly. The next morning Mrs Westwood told him (Noel) that his father had grabbed a revolver and threatened suicide, during the quarrel. The Sergeant would add that the accused made a statement about his father carrying on a relationship with a woman named 'Mrs. Webber'.

### **FREQUENT ROWS**

The prosecutor then bought Mrs Elizabeth Westwood, widow of the deceased, to the stand. Mrs Westwood stated she frequently had arguments with her husband, but they remained on friendly terms till his passing. When asked what these arguments were about the witness said, 'one row was over a debt and another row was over Reuben Dunn'. There were other disagreements with her husband where she took the side of the 'boys' (meaning Noel and Dunn) in regard to cattle deals. In relation to the morning of the poisoning, after receiving the tea from Noel in the main bedroom, she said Tommy stirred the hot drink and poured some into his saucer. Her husband then drank the tea directly from the saucer. Shortly thereafter he remarked about the tea burning his insides.

On cross-examination Mr MacMahon put it to Mrs Westwood that Noel and his father were on the best

of terms – almost like brothers. Mrs Westwood answered: "Yes, he (Tommy) was on better terms with Noel than he was with me". Mr MacMahon then asked: "A month before he died, your husband and Noel inspected a piece of land at Cudgen on which to erect a billiards and hairdressing saloon – to give Noel a start in life?" Mrs Westwood answered: "Yes".

### **AFFAIR WITH REUBEN DUNN**

Mr MacMahon questioned the widow further about the relationship dynamics within their household. What followed was shocking evidence that had the courtroom abuzz. Mrs Westwood firstly admitted to the court that she had arguments with her husband over Reuben Dunn. The widow conceded she was particularly friendly with Dunn, and they had been having a romantic affair whilst living in the same house. The night before his death, Mrs Westwood alleged, her husband had spoken to her about removing Dunn from the house. "I have always stood up for Dunn," Mrs Westwood said forcefully. She then expressed some emotional attachment to the teenager by saying, "I did not want Dunn to go and I do not want him to go now." The defence counsel drilled down further on this matter of the relationship between the married woman and the young boarder.

Mr. MacMahon: "Will you deny that Dunn came into your bedroom on the morning your husband died?"

Mrs. Westwood: "I wouldn't like to say."

Mr. MacMahon: "Is that your best answer?"

Mrs. Westwood: "Yes."

With that His Honour Justice James interjected to ask the witness, "Are you telling this story to save your son or are you telling the truth?" Mrs Westwood replied: "I'm telling the truth." The questioning about Dunn and their affair continued by the defence. Mrs Westwood would state that her relationship with Dunn had initially been suggested by her husband many years prior. The widow indicated she was afraid of her husband and did everything he told her to.

### **THREATS OF SUICIDE**

The cross-examination of the witness then focused on the mental state of the deceased.

Mrs. Westwood: "I told the doctor I thought my husband was poisoned."

Mr. MacMahon: "Why did you think that?"

Mrs. Westwood: "He had threatened it before ... so that I thought he might have taken it [poison] when I went out the room earlier to attend to my son, Tommy. He threatened to commit suicide a fortnight before that, and on another occasion a month or six weeks previously he threatened to shoot himself with a revolver ... but I took it from him."

Mrs Westwood added it would have been possible for her husband to have put something in his tea without her seeing it, as she had her back turned to him for a period of time. She stated that on the morning in question he did not have something to eat with his tea as he was normally in the habit of doing. Countered by the Mr Hill for the prosecution, Mrs Westwood would agree that her husband was in the habit of most always carrying a revolver. She said they sometimes kept a lot of money in the house, and he was fearful of being robbed. The widow confirmed her husband left everything to her in his will.

#### **"AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF?"**

All eyes intently followed the next witness to the stand – Reuben Dunn. The young man stated that he was a cattle dealer. Dunn said that he had lived with the Westwood's for the past six and a half years whilst in their employ. He slept in a room adjoining the bedroom of Mr and Mrs Westwood. Dunn responded to a line of questioning by Mr MacMahon by admitting to having "associations" with Mrs Westwood over the past five years.

Mr. MacMahon: "Have you ever been in Mrs. Westwood's bedroom?"

Mr. Dunn: "Between three and four o'clock in the morning. It was at Mr. Westwood's suggestion".

His Honour interjected: "Do you want to marry Mrs. Westwood?"

Mr. Dunn: "No".

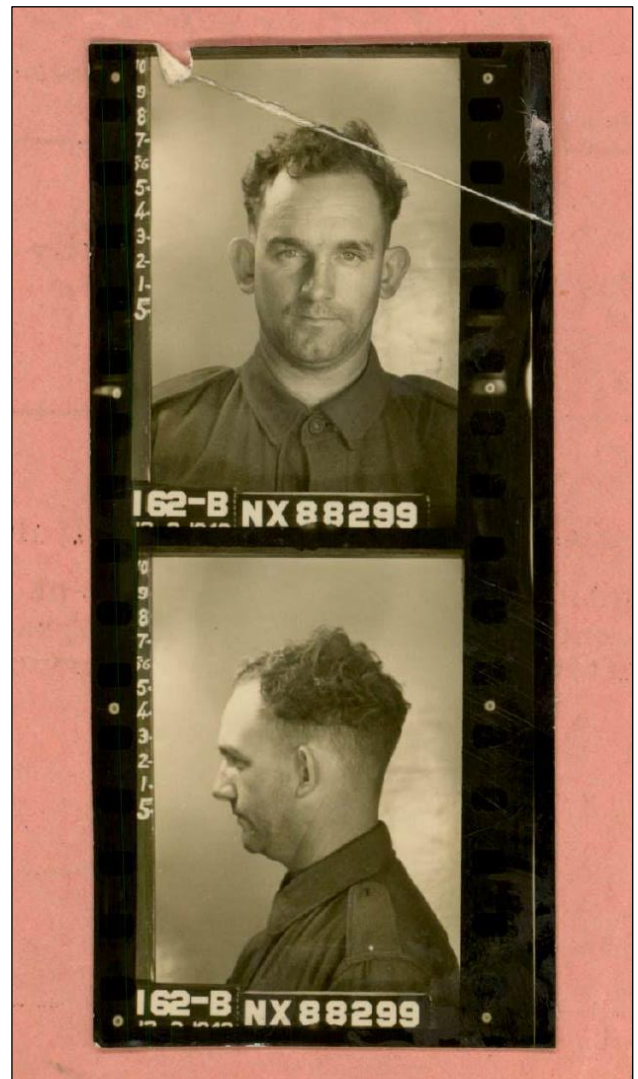
His Honour: "How old are you?"

Mr. Dunn: "Nineteen".

His Honour now appearing to be a bit exasperated, inquired, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself?"

Mr. Dunn: "It was Mr. Westwood who suggested it and I do not see why I should be ashamed".

The courtroom was aghast with many shaking their heads in disbelief at the audacity of witness'



*Reuben Dunn's photograph from his war service record taken in 1942, ten years after the trial.*

*National Archives of Australia, Item Number 4644027.*

testimony. Dunn added that he was unsure if Tommy was jealous about the illicit relationship.

Responding to further questions from Mr MacMahon, the witness said that the deceased trucked on average 200 calves a week whilst being assisted by himself and the accused. The calves would be regularly sprayed, and it was necessary to physically handle some of the livestock during loading operations.

#### **SPLASHES ON THE TROUSERS**

Stock Inspector Walter Herbert Bishop, representative from the regional tick board, then gave testimony. The witness told the court he oversaw the dip at Murwillumbah and confirmed the dip mixture contained arsenic. Mr Bishop said cattle were dipped for the Westwood's on the 12th of April and Noel Westwood was present. The witness



would say the owners would usually not handle their own stock at the dips. Mr Bishop then agreed with Mr MacMahon it was likely that a person assisting in the usual dipping process could get “splashes of arsenic” on their clothes. The Stock Inspector told the court that the accused very often assisted in the cleaning up of the dips. This involved the sweeping the drainage pens, skimming the dip and sweeping the crush. He verified that on the 12th of April there were issues with a plug in the dip. The accused helped in patching the dip plug with wet mud, as was common practice. Mr Bishop also said that he had seen Noel Westwood regularly handling calves at the trucking yard. Mr MacMahon had the Mr Bishop provide the court with records of other recent dippings related to the Westwood family. The court was told that on the 20th, 21st and 27th April, consignments of stock were handled. The accused was in attendance on each occasion.

#### **STATEMENT FROM THE ACCUSED**

The court would then allow the accused to make a statement. Noel Westwood stood from his seat in the dock and made a passionate declaration:

“I am innocent of this crime. I did not poison my Father. He and I were the best of mates. A week before my father died, he and my mother inspected a property at Cudgen Headland. Mum was going to buy the land and father was going to set me up in a billiard and hairdressing saloon. Father was going to buy me a car. I told Sergeant Lisle that I did not poison my Father and it was true. I also told him all my movements... I told the police at the start that I did not poison my Father. I say it again and I will say it to my dying day. I

have lost a good Father. He was always good to me. Nobody is sorrier than I am that he is gone.”

#### **A CIRCUMSTANTIAL CASE**

In his final retort to the Crown case, Mr MacMahon would tell the jury that the case put forth was purely circumstantial. He added that the prosecution had been unable to bring forward any semblance of motive for the crime. The defence submitted that the suicide theory could not be ruled out as there was evidence to support the deceased being suicidal at one time.

Mr MacMahon asked the jury to consider the doctor's evidence. Specifically, the effects of arsenic and the time it took for symptoms to occur after ingestion. The defence had laid out, via Dr Eakins testimony, that the arsenic was most likely taken well before the tea was drunk. Tommy had vomited only two minutes after taking a drink of his tea. Not long enough for the symptoms of arsenic ingestion to take hold, proffered Mr MacMahon. He would go on to review the evidence of the traces of arsenic on the working trousers of the accused, worn on the morning of 3rd of May. These were the trousers Noel had removed and left inside Reuben Dunn's room before he drove his mother to the hospital. Multiple witnesses had testified under oath the likelihood of Noel Westwood being splashed with arsenic in handling livestock in the recent dipping activities.

To conclude, Mr MacMahon would speak of the personal relations between Mrs Westwood and Reuben Dunn. These scandalous admissions offered an alternate theory of crime, in his view. The

**WIDOW'S ASTOUNDING STORY AT  
MURDER TRIAL  
DEAD MAN FORCED  
ILLICIT ROMANCE  
WITH YOUTHFUL LOVER  
*Jury Free Son After Hearing  
Staggering Revelations***

*After the trial. Brisbane Truth headline, 25 September 1932.*

lawyer speculated that the motive of the killing may have been driven by the 'illicit love of a man for a woman', which had nothing to do with his client. Had Dunn and Mrs Westwood wanted Tommy out of the way so the amorous pair could continue their relationship unencumbered.

### SUMMATION BY JUSTICE JAMES

In addressing the jury, His Honour Justice James asserted that the case against Noel Westwood was one of the most delicate he had ever had to try. His Honour cautioned them against being sidetracked by the extraneous matters involved in the case – of which there were many. He outlined the case put forth by the Crown was mostly a circumstantial one. There was no direct evidence of the administration of poison. The prosecution's case rested on the fact that the accused was the person who gave the deceased a cup of tea before he died. No poison could be traced back to Noel Westwood. The judge said it was true that a packet of arsenic was found in a shed



*A nineteen-year-old Noel Westwood in 1932, after the inquest. This photograph, either full length or head and shoulders, was used in every article that the Truth newspaper published about the inquest and trial.*

*Brisbane Truth, 29 May 1932.*

adjacent to the house amongst dusty tins. But none of the accused's fingerprints could be found on the packet and there was no indication the poison was removed from the packet in question. Touching on a potential motive for the crime, His Honour said those theories put forth by the Crown were unlikely to reach a point where the son would take his father's life. The jury should also consider the state of mind of the deceased and the matter of his alleged threats of suicide previous.

### THE VERDICT

The verdict was swift and unanimous. It took the jury not more than a quarter of an hour to return to the courtroom. Not Guilty. Noel Westwood was discharged from the custody of police – and walked from the dock with a beaming smile. The nightmare of his 4-month imprisonment awaiting trial as an accused murderer was now over. The teenager was greeted by friends and family outside the courthouse to rejoice in his freedom.

*Editor's note. The poisoning of John Thomas Westwood occurred during what the Sydney Truth called a 'poisoning epidemic sweeping the State'. You can read about it in the article 'Amazing Poison Wave Sweeps State', dated 28 August 1932. Sergeant Thornley was posted to Lismore from 1931 to 1933. He was what is called a colourful identity'. Read about his career in the Ministerial Statement about police administration in Hansard – Legislative Assembly, 25 November 1938.*

*The legal men, too, were not long for this world. Augustus George Frederic James, known as the 'sporting Judge' because of his sporting interests, especially boxing, died in 1934. Arthur Gordon Hill died in 1942 at the age of 46. At the time of his death he was a judge on the District Court Bench. His loss of a leg during World War I after his wounding at Gallipoli contributed to his early death. Thomas Patrick MacMahon died in 1940, 'succumbing to pneumonia following an attack of measles'. He was 40 years old.*

*As for the Westwoods, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Noel, and Reuben Dunn, there are few details of their subsequent lives in the public record. Elizabeth remarried in late 1940, with her husband dying eighteen days after the wedding. She died and was buried in 1961 in Murwillumbah. Thomas' death was registered in 1952 in the Parramatta district, and he was buried in Murwillumbah. Noel's marriage was registered in Victoria in 1940, his death in Sydney in 1985, and he was buried in Tamworth. Reuben Dunn's marriage was registered in Murwillumbah in 1937. His death was registered in Queensland in 1971 and he was buried in Murwillumbah. Noel's and Reuben's World War II service records and electoral records are also available through the National Archives of Australia and Ancestry respectively.*

*Last, but not least. The research for this article has led to the discovery that the Tweed Daily for July, August and September cannot be found on Trove. The earliest reports of Noel Westwood's trial appear in the Northern Star, with those in the Brisbane and Sydney Truth newspapers appearing a few days later. Make of that what you will.*



## Seeing Double

*The ninth Timelines In fifteen minutes included an article on a collection of stereoscopic images held by the Tweed Regional Museum. A more extensive selection of these images is published below, following Kath McIlrath's story, 'Camping at Kerosene Bay'. But first, an introduction to the stereographs.*

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. There are 229 stereographs of local locations, predominantly in the Tweed valley. Not all are dated or record the creator. For those with notations, 148 were photographed between 1891 and 1904, and 'LS' appears to be the creator of 138. The Museum notes that the photographer is 'Douglas Solomons' (though given the recorded dates on most of the photographs, he would have been aged from one to fourteen over this period, his birth having been registered in Murwillumbah in 1890). It is more likely that Louis Solomons, Douglas' father, was the photographer for those inscribed 'L.S.'

Louis Solomons 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. 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 Douglas, who had been wounded during the Great War and was being treated at a hospital there. When Douglas visited

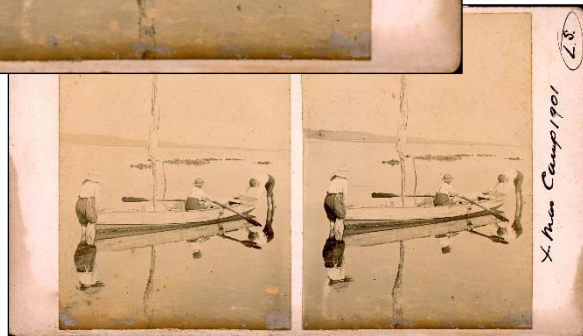
Murwillumbah in 1923, the *Daily* wrote that though he had 'lost the use of his legs at the war, [he] travels about in a motor cycle side car, which is specially fitted to meet his case'. Louis died in 1933, being remembered as a general storekeeper, auctioneer, and farmer, who during the early days 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'.

Louis Solomons' initials are on 138 of the images in the collection. There are 32 from 1899 taken in various locations from Tweed Heads to Brunswick Heads and across to Boat Harbour on the North Arm. Another 32 were taken in 1897 (14), 1898 (13) and 1900 (5). Twenty have no date. The majority of his stereographs, 54 of the 138, are titled 'Xmas Camp 1901'. They record an annual camping holiday at Fingal. (There are also some images of camps in 1897, 1898, and 1899 (at Brunswick), but nowhere near the number taken in 1901.) Thirty-eight of these images appear on the following pages. They have been grouped under the following headings: 'The Camp'; 'Work'; 'Meals'; 'Activities'; 'Sights'; 'Children'; 'Humour'; and 'Leaving'. One image in each group has been presented in its original stereoscopic format, with the rest cropped to show half of the scanned card. The image title is that written on the margin of each stereograph.

### Camping at Kerosene Bay

*Among the Tweed Heads Historical Society research files held by the Tweed Regional Museum (Item 2596) is this childhood reminiscence about camping at the location photographed in Louis Solomons' stereographs. Written by Kath McIlrath, it mentions '[t]he Solomon family camped alongside', as well as Doug Solomon by name. Kath (Kathleen Mary) McIlrath was born in 1897 and died in 1994.*

The much awaited and anticipated event of our year was the annual camping holiday at Kerosene Bay. We started preparing for months ahead. Old clothes, damaged crockery etc. were put aside for "camp". The boys spent hours at the forge in the little smithy attached to the factory, and with their neighbours, the Solomons, Skinners and Hayes, thus made shark hooks, spears and harpoons. They also fashioned acetylene lamps with reflectors made of bright kerosene tins cut in half, and long-



*Though untitled, this is probably the 'Bamboo'.*

handled wire scoops for night fishing, prawning and crabbing.

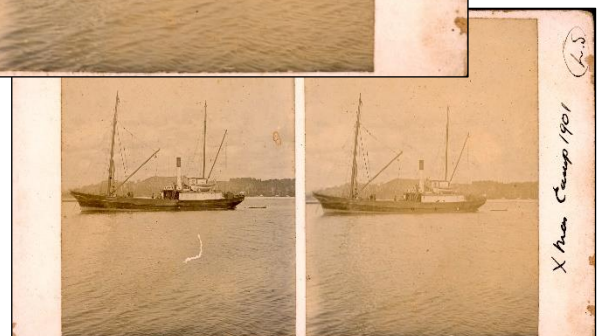
During all this activity, sometimes the normal chores were neglected. The fuel stove needed lots of cut wood and kindling, and Dad was often heard to threaten "If you don't get all that wood split, you won't get that far, (measuring a joint on his little finger) to the beach", an annual threat which became a family joke for years afterwards. Dad himself did not care for the seaside, and spent most of the holiday at home, but Mother coped most efficiently with the crowd of kids, ably aided by Bess in the feeding of all the crew. We were all allowed to invite a friend for part of the time, so it was generally "house full". The Solomon family camped alongside, and all activities were shared.

At last it was actually THE TIME! The boys set off a day early to pitch the camp; poles were cut from paper-bark trees across the river on Eukrebagh Island, loaded on to a "flattie" and rowed across the river. Tents were leased from the C.S.R. Company (used by cutters in the cane season) as Arthur was an apprentice Engineer at the Mill. They were the army-type rectangular tent with separate fly, so were fairly cool when pitched among shade trees. An extra-large fly formed the dining area, with a

pine table covered with "oil cloth", and we had stools at each side of the table.

Beds were made from long saplings pushed through chaff bags which were filled with bleached dry seagrass gathered along the river walls. Sheets were bed-length tubes made from calico bags in which the salt for the butter was packed. The prominent brand of "Mermaid Dairy Salt" did not fade easily, but we were never out for "style" while camping. We kids slept two to a bed, one at each end were always well covered from the sand flies. The beds were supported on specially cut forked saplings, with spreaders.

Other bedroom furniture consisted of kerosene cases for our clothes, and a clothes rail between bed and tent wall. All chipped and damaged crockery and utensils were saved for camping, and sometimes we buried them in a tin box from one year to another. Plates were scarce, and no one was particularly keen on washing-up, so sometimes were turned over for a second course. Our staple diet was of fish, which were plentiful in the river and lagoon, camp oven bread, with corned meat for variety. Other provisions came by the river boats, which were met in mid-stream by the rowing boat, or we rowed, on the incoming tide, round the end of the wall (since filled in) to Tweed Heads. We used



*River traffic on the Tweed.*





*'An ideal place ... to splash and swim'.*

tinned milk (sweetened) and once a tin had been opened it was soon mysteriously finished.

At night we all joined to play noisy card games such as "Old Maid" and "Saints and Sinners" or "Jenkins Says Hands Up".

Another favourite pastime on moonlit evenings was to walk along the beach to the Fingal Lighthouse, then operated by Mr. Arnold, who lived with his family in a red-roofed stone house beside the Light (since demolished). There was dancing on the verandah to the music of their gramophone or Harry Solomons played his button accordion. The hill of white sand was then higher than the Lighthouse, and we rolled and jumped about on it, or went there to let off our Christmas fireworks. On the walk home we linked arms and sang - sometimes so intent on this that we missed the marking pole which indicated our path across the dune, and finished up down at the river bar. Sometimes the marker was purposely mislaid, and the terrace line had few special features.

Fixed shark lines were set in the river, attached to a springy sapling. With some of the home-made shark hooks, baited with small bream, the line was carried out with the boat and anchored in deep water with stones. One night while we were playing

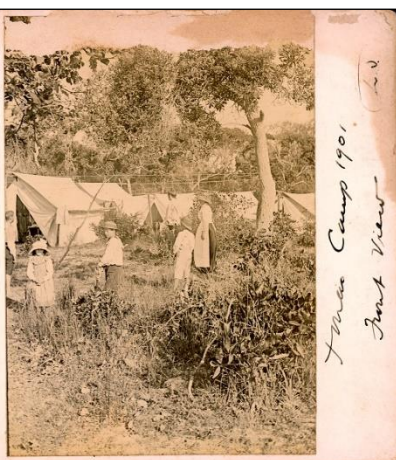
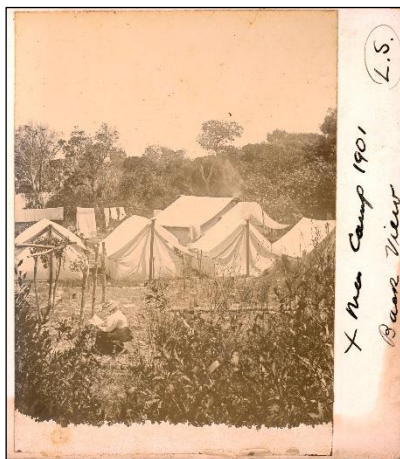
cards Doug Solomons sneaked out, pleading a headache, and set the bullock bell, attached to the top of the pole, ringing. Led by Herb, who was in the joke, we all raced for the river, forgetting that high tide now covered our most direct route to the line, and we all floundered through over a foot of water. Tottie, feeling sorry that poor Doug was missing all the fun, ran to his tent, found his bed empty and just sat down dry, waiting for the rest to arrive looking like drowned rats. Doug, however, did not escape, but was caught and thrown into the lagoon for a cool-off. Drinking water was obtained from a clear water well among the dunes, near the mouth of the river, or we caught the run-off from the tents in the ever-useful kerosene tins. However, the latter had rather the taste of canvas. At the camp itself the water from a well was tea-coloured and unpalatable. All baths were taken in the sea or the lagoon.

The camp site was shaded by trees, including several very large spreading "cottonwoods", a yellow-flowered hibiscus with round leaves. These had a low-spreading growth, with stout branches spreading about six feet above the ground, ideal for hammocks and swings. Between camp and the sea was a high dune, or terrace, covered with shrubby growth, which gave good shelter on the seaward side. Our camp was on the southern end of the lagoon, where a clean sandy bottom and gradually increasing depth was an ideal place at high tide to splash and swim. There was a deeper part at the very end, where the boys set up a diving board. Flat-bottomed punts were used in the lagoon, but we also used a large life-boat (from the wrecked Fido?) when we all set off for Tweed Heads. We had to roll it on poles, across a low portion of the wall, into the river. The ocean-going tug boat, "Terranora" often went to sea to tow vessels across the Bar, and we were on it as often as we were allowed and had a real thrill on the waves. Certain signals at the Pilot Station alerted us to a possible trip with them.

*Kath's father, Isaac McIlrath, brought his family from Victoria to Murwillumbah in 1898. His obituary in the Tweed Daily of 3 July 1939 placed his name in the 'vanguard of those whom the Tweed calls its pioneers', saying it would 'always be pre-eminently associated [with] the development of the Tweed's major industry - dairying'. Two of Kath's brothers are mentioned in her story: Arthur (Charles Arthur) and Herb (Herbert John). In 1913 Kath's sister Ada married Harry Solomons, who, 'played his button accordion' at the camp.*



## The Camp



Above, clockwise from the stereoscopic image: Front view; 'Back view'; 'Back view'; 'Side view looking towards river'; 'Dining tent showing cupboard'; 'Track from the terrace to the camp'; 'Breadfruit tree at the camp'; and 'Fantastic shaped tree near camp'.

To the right, from left to right: 'View in front of camp'; 'Evening in front of the camp'; and 'In front of camp at moonlight'.

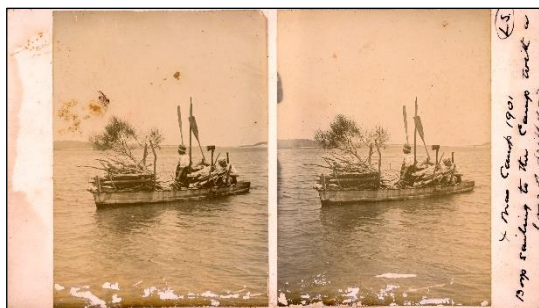




## Work



Above and to the right: 'Wash day - all hands at it'; 'Ironing day'; and 'Making kiss cakes - all interested'.



Above: Boys sailing to the camp with a load of driftwood'; and 'A load of driftwood'.



Above: 'A nice catch'; and 'Fish cleaning'.

## Meals



Above: 'Lunch under the terrace'; 'Enjoying a read after lunch'; and 'Afternoon tea'.



## Activities



Xmas Camp 1901  
Fun in the briny



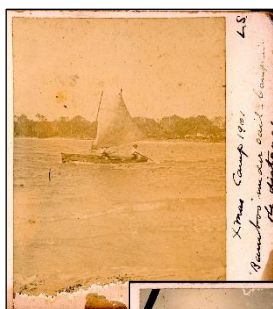
Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
Smiling mermaids



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
Searching for shells



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
Bagging oysters for our friends



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
"Bamboo" under sail - camp in the distance



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
"Bamboo" anchoring for the night



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
"Bamboo" alone in the moonlight



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
Start of the 40 tonners

From top, left to right: 'Fun in the briny'; 'Smiling mermaids'; 'Searching for shells'; 'Bagging oysters for our friends'; and 'Start of the 40 tonners'.

Clockwise from left: 'The "Bamboo" under sail - camp in the distance'; "Bamboo" anchoring for the night; and 'The "Bamboo" alone in the moonlight'.

## Sights



Camp at Remuera  
Nov 1899  
L.S.



Xmas Camp 1901 (L.S.)  
Towing "Cooloon" over the bar

Above: 'Waving to friends on the "Uki"'; and 'Towing "Cooloon" over the bar'.



## Children

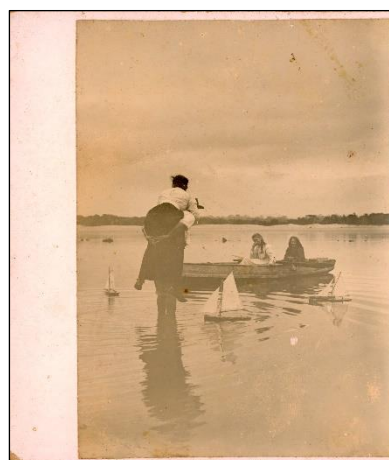


From left to right: 'The children paddling in the breakers'; 'The three children on the beach'; and 'Children on the beach in front of the camp'.

## Humour

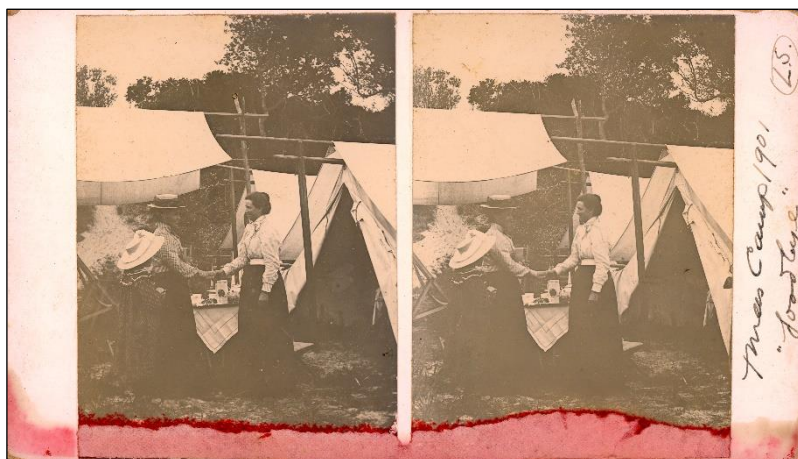


From left to right: 'The two children who cannot play without rowing'; and 'Drinking to the health of the hostess'.



'Loading livestock after sundown'.

## Leaving



"Goodbye".

**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.

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**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.

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To preserve maximum space for content, sources and references will not usually be listed. These are available from the Editor upon request.

## The Back Page ...

### Funeral on the Tweed

Harry Alexander Solomons, mentioned in the article on stereographs, was one of the first storekeepers on the Tweed River. He died on 16 December 1883. He was aged forty-one, according to the plaque at the Murwillumbah Sacred Park, formerly the Murwillumbah General Cemetery; thirty-seven according to his death notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. His funeral was memorialized in the *Lismore Northern Star* on 29 December 1883 by an unknown correspondent, styled 'Delta Rho Kappa'. A facsimile of the published poem can be seen on this page. The poem evokes a sense of an unexpected death of a recent arrival on a distant frontier, buried in a lonely grave open to the 'unwieldy heavy tramp' of cattle. In contrast to the sentiment of this verse is the laconic death notice published in Sydney three days after his death: 'SOLOMONS.—December 16, 1883, at his residence, Murwillumbah, Tweed, after a few hours' illness, Harry Alexander Solomons, in his 37th year'. Similarly, the *New South Wales Government Gazette* of 18 January 1884 published the notice of Louis Solomons' intention to apply for letters of administration in his brother's estate.

Bush burial meets the bureaucracy of a modernizing world.

