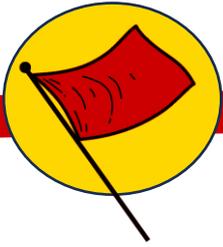


# TIMELINES



In fifteen minutes

Number 29

## Committee meeting

Eight committee and four Society members attended February's meeting, and two apologies were recorded.

The correspondence list was read by Secretary, Natasha Green.

Bev Fairley, our President, extended the Society's condolences to the Tweed River Historical Society on the death of their Life Member, Robert Ford. Bev stated that under the terms of the Service Agreement with the Tweed Regional Museum she had submitted the Society's Key Performance Indicator report. This Agreement is due to be renewed for the 2026-2031 period in May. She also provided an update about the help the Society is providing the Pottsville Beach Community Hall which is gearing up to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July.

The Treasurer, Ian Batten reported that in January income exceeded expenditure (a good thing).

Henry James extended a welcome to new member Peter Cokley.

Joan Cuthel listed the fifteen research enquiries that had been received since the last meeting – a very busy month.

## Service Agreement

In addition to the Society's own Constitution, it's work is also carried out in the context of the Service Agreement with the Tweed Regional Museum. The Agreement was last renewed in 2022. A new agreement will be signed this year to cover the period 2026 to 2031.

What does the Agreement entail? It is the successor document to the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding which was signed by the Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, and Uki and South Arm Historical Societies and the Council of the Tweed Shire. This established the Tweed Regional Museum and an Advisory Committee. The Museum became the owner and custodian of the Societies' collections; the Societies retained their individual identities, with representation on the Advisory Committee and providing research services. Under the previous agreement, as well as the new agreement, Council continues to support the Societies 'by providing non-exclusive accommodation within Council owned buildings ... free of all charges'. For their part, the Societies agree to meet a number of Key Performance Indicators: having staff at the Museum; digitisation of collection items; and research in response to community enquiries and as required by the Museum.

Do you wish to comment on the Agreement? If so, feel free to drop us a line at the email [secretary@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au).

## Our next meeting

The Society welcomes new members. We meet on the third Monday of every month.

**11:00 am on Monday, 16 March 2026, at the President's residence.**

(Please call to confirm attendance and for the venue location.)

CONTACT US: Phone: (02) 6670 2273

**At the Museum: Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and Wednesday and Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

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

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

Email: [editor@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:editor@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au)

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

<p><b>SPECIAL!</b> SPEECHES BY STALIN, MOLOTOV, ZDANHOV, MANULSKY To the recent 18th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolshie- viki) and the Resolutions. 3d. EACH POSTAGE 1d. From ANVIL BOOKSHOP, 131 Hay Street, Sydney Essential for an understanding of the present crisis.</p>	<p><i>Published every Tuesday and Friday</i></p> <h1>Workers Weekly</h1>	<p>ON OTHER PAGES LATEST ON CHINA WAR —See Page 2  FAREWELL TO "WEEKLY" —See Page 3</p>
<p>No. 1032 Phone M 3374</p>	<p>EASTERN SUBURBS: Business Managers FL 061 SYDNEY: TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1959</p>	<p>Registered at the General Post Office for transmission by post as a newspaper. 6. 40-Hour Week. PRICE, 11d.</p>

## Traces of the CPA on the Tweed

The Tweed Regional Museum's Collection has 263 items donated by 'Joe Bails'. Given the nature of the items – predominantly Soviet-era publications – the correct name of the donor should be recorded as Joe Bailes. Joe (Joseph William) Bailes was a member of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA). He was 'The Voice of the Countryside', probably the most successful, and definitely the longest running, CPA radio programme in Australia. It was aired from 1942 to 1966. The CPA purchased air time for its broadcasting. This included the local Murwillumbah radio station 2MW, which opened in 1937. Bailes worked for the CPA, was a member of its Central Committee, and as a poultry farmer a 'prominent member of the Egg Board'. He died at Tweed Heads in 2001. His obituary concluded: 'Joe lived a long and committed life [he was born in 1903]; true to the cause he so avidly believed in – Socialism'.

Knowledge of the Bailes items has prompted investigation of the work of the CPA on the Tweed. Unfortunately this has been a fairly fruitless endeavour to date. The CPA had a branch at Murwillumbah in 1939. The secretary was W G H (Bill) McAllister. He wrote an obituary for Sid Harvey, the CPA's State Committee organiser in Northern New South Wales, who died in a traffic accident that year. The CPA's newspapers, the *Workers' Weekly* (1923-1939) and the *Tribune* (1939-1991), have passing references to Murwillumbah and the Tweed. In 1925 'Bolshie' wrote from Murwillumbah that he visited two timber-clearing gangs and that 'as a result of [his] agitation these workers now enjoy a twenty minutes "smoke-oh" a day'. In 1939 'North Coaster' wrote that the management of 2MW had prevented Rev. Stevens lecturing on peace, and John Hogan speaking on the National Insurance Act. 'Managing director of 2MW is A. A. Budd, late leader of the New Guard. "No! We don't want that stuff spoken over the air here!" he remarked to John Hogan.' In 1945 CPA Senate candidate Adam Ogston 'back from a strenuous northern tour ... commented on the fact that the only one of his meetings reported in the Sydney press was the Murwillumbah reactionaries' effort to silence him'. In 1952 John Mussing, 'brother of famous footballer, Walter Mussing' wrote a letter to the Tweed Daily that was reported in the Tribune: "At certain places ... the colored population of this district are directed to a place reserved for the colored people alone, and are not allowed to sit where they choose, the same as the whites do. This act of segregation has been going on for some years." (Walter played rugby league for St George and later was the manager of Tranby Aboriginal College in Glebe, Sydney. The Tribune eulogised him in 1990 as follows: 'He had been a member of the Communist Party for several years and remained a socialist and unionist throughout his life.') In 1953 John and Walter's sister Faith wrote an article for the Tribune after her return from the 1952 Berlin Youth Festival about her visit to Bulgaria. She was the delegate of the NSW Peace Council. She observed: 'What a contrast between the way government officials welcomed us, the Australian peace delegation to Bulgaria, and the way our own government authorities have taken every precaution to see that no young people from other lands visit our Australian Youth Carnival for Peace and Friendship! People's Bulgaria welcomed us, not only with hundreds of flower laden youth and bands, but by an official reception by the Prime Minister himself.' And from year to year there were locals who supported the *Workers' Weekly* and later the *Tribune*. In 1939, the Weekly praised Murwillumbah: 'Murwillumbah sets a splendid example. In that town they take 3½ dozen of each issue and pay in advance'. In 1977 Tweed Heads 'Pensioners donated \$5 to the *Tribune* Press Fund.' From each according to their ability...

In conclusion. Nearly all of the Bailes items listed in the CRM have been deaccessioned. This is because they fell outside of the Museum's collecting policy, namely that objects are 'relevant to the Tweed Region'. Nevertheless, the CPA was active on the Tweed. If you have any information or memorabilia of this history, the Society would be happy to hear from you.