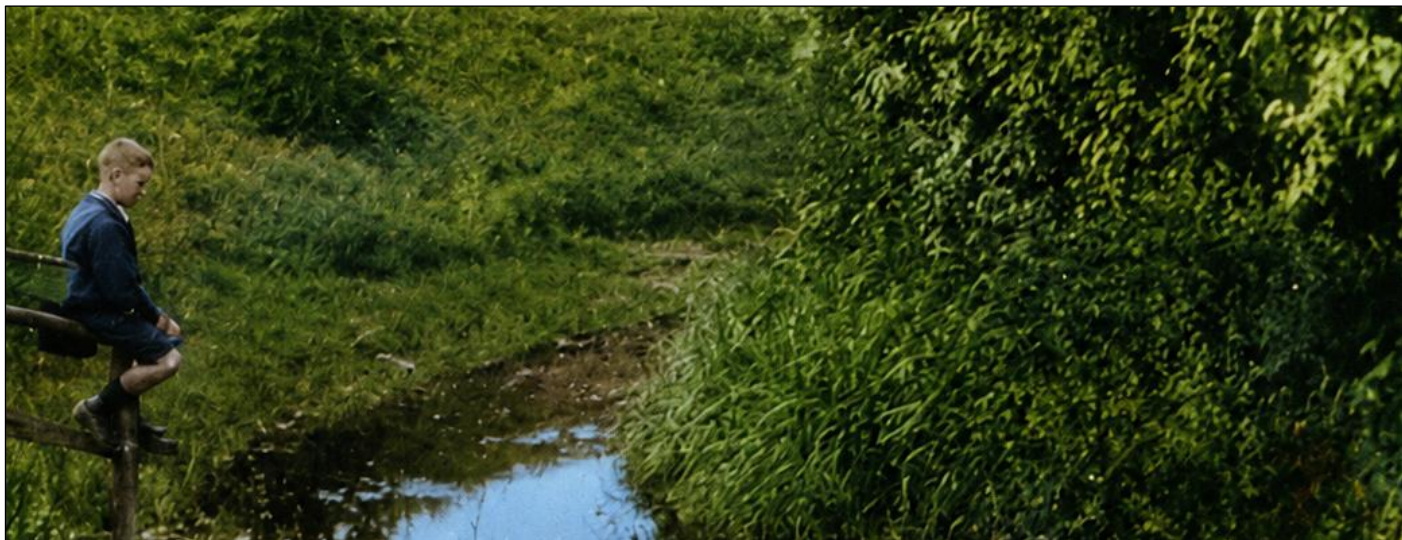


TIMELINES

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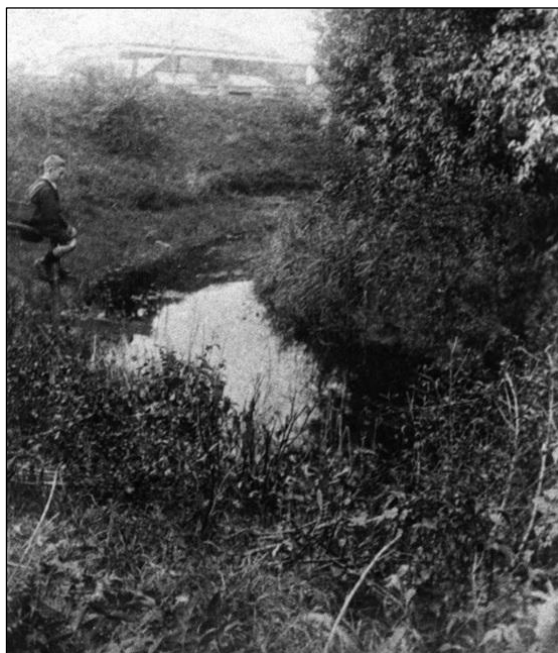


Welcome

A young boy sits pensively by a small creek, contemplating the beauty of nature at his feet. Or is he hoping his father will get a hurry up and finish the complicated business of photography as practised around 1920, because the smell is atrocious! Truth be told, probably the latter, because he finds himself on the shore of Murwillumbah Creek, better known as Lavender Creek. Another example of that laconic, ironic, Australian way of dealing with intractable problems.

This issue's second article deals with the steps that were taken to solve the first of many problems that

plagued this waterway flowing through the town of Murwillumbah – redirect its flow with a dam, and then fill in the downstream creek bed.



But we begin on a sweeter note, that of the Chindera, or Red Tamarind. Henry James argues forcefully, and then rests his case: 'I think we in the Tweed should use Chinderah as the common name [for this tree, in preference to Red Tamarind].

The 'Back Page ...' documents a bit of detective work tracing ships named *Lismore* in order to correct an error in the last issue of *Timelines*.

Enjoy your reading!

Museum caption: 'A young boy, K.A. Solomons, sitting on some type of structure looking at Lavender Creek water which is surrounded by thick growth of trees and shrubs. Photograph by Harry Solomons, circa 1920s.' [Colour in header by Chat GPT.]

Source: Tweed Regional Museum Collection.



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Chindera

Henry James writes about the naming of trees. Here he states his case for Chinderah and Toonoum.

Diploglottis campbellii (Small-leaved Tamarind) was the subject of a story in Volume 12 No. 1 of *Timelines* (September 2024). It was observed that it is an endangered species with a limited distribution centred on the Tweed valley and that formal recognition and naming did not occur until 1923. The species was named after Tweed resident Robert Campbell who sent specimens to herbaria in Sydney and Brisbane.

The present-day common name – Small-leaved Tamarind – may first have been recorded by Alex Floyd in 1977 when he published Volume V of his series on rainforest trees for the Forestry Commission of NSW. However, it had prior common names that are clue to its quite early recognition by European colonists and of course, much earlier recognition by Aboriginal residents of the Tweed.

In the *Tweed News* of 20 February 1946, speaking of a township in the Tweed valley, columnist ‘Barnabus’ says ‘Chindera (sometimes spelt Chinderah) ... signifies Red Tamarind [tree]’. He quotes no source for the claim and fails to mention that Chindera is a word of Aboriginal origin. ‘Barnabus’ also assumed, almost certainly wrongly, that the tree in question is the red-pulped variety of the Indian Tamarind (*Tamarindus indicus*). Around the same time Carlos Stretch also wrote that Chinderah is the Aboriginal

name for the Red Tamarind. Stretch was an Anglican minister who spent most of his life in the Hunter valley but did travel to the north coast of NSW and corresponded with residents of the region. He compiled a manuscript titled *Toponymy: Place Names of New South Wales: Their Origin, Meaning and Locality*. The account was assembled over many years up to the 1950s. He undertook a great deal of research but provided no information on the source regarding Chinderah and Red Tamarind. It is not clear if Barnabus and Stretch both got their information from the same, older source.

So we have evidence of two names for a single native tree – Chinderah and Red Tamarind. But what evidence is there that they refer to *Diploglottis campbellii*?

In the case of Red Tamarind it is self-evident. The fruit of *Diploglottis campbellii* is distinctively bright red. It is relatively large and fleshy. It is very juicy and pleasantly acid. (See an image of fruit and leaves at Figure 1.) By the time Red Tamarind had come to the attention of colonists of the north coast of NSW, they were already familiar with a closely related, fairly common species they called Tamarind (*Diploglottis australis*). (See an image of fruit and leaves at Figure 2.) It grows in rainforests as far south as the Illawarra and was encountered in the early days of colonisation. The name Tamarind was applied to these native trees presumably because some colonists were familiar with the culinary use of Indian Tamarind – which is also pleasantly acid – and drew



Figure 1: Fruit and leaves of Chindera or Red Tamarind.

Photo: Hugh Nicholson.



Figure 2: Fruit and leaves of Toonoum, Yellow Tamarind or Native Tamarind.

Photo: Barry Railey.

the comparison. In a catalogue of samples of timber of the north coast of NSW, first published in 1861, it is said Native Tamarind 'is valued by settlers on account of its sub-acid fruit, which it yields in great abundance, and of which a very good preserve is made'. In the Kynnumboon Diaries, the making of jam with 'tamarinds' from trees near Murwillumbah was recorded by Joshua Bray in November 1865. Like *Diploglottis australis*, *Diploglottis campbellii* sets very large crops of fruit in some years. It is likely to have been a well-known source of food for local tribes. It would almost certainly have been given a name that distinguished it from other rainforest trees, including *Diploglottis australis*. The name would have been communicated to colonists.

The earliest record of the word Chinderah appears to have been as the name of a place, not a species of tree. It occurred with a notice in the *Government Gazette* of 30 December 1865 that certain crown land had been 'reserved from sale for water supply or other purposes'. (It was spelt without the final "h" in the gazette notice.) It is likely it was applied at the suggestion of Isaiah Rowland who completed a survey of the Tweed River in April 1863. His original plan of survey still exists (see Figure 3) but includes amendments that were made after it was first drafted. For instance, the boundaries of the reserve referred to above have been added. It is not clear if the label 'Chinderah' was in the original or added at the time of the creation of the reserve in 1865. If it was in the original, the earliest record of its use is pushed back to April 1863. More importantly, it was not applied to present-day Chinderah but to an area across the Tweed River that is now called Banora Point. Banora Point is now almost totally cleared of its original rain

forest, but it has fertile, red, basalt soils that are a favoured habitat of Small-leaved Tamarinds. One of the few remaining locations of mature *Diploglottis campbellii* is on red soil a short distance up river from Banora Point.

Local Aboriginal lore has accounts of mature Chinderah trees still present at Barney's Point around the beginning of the 20th century. (Barney's Point is a promontory on the Tweed River within the

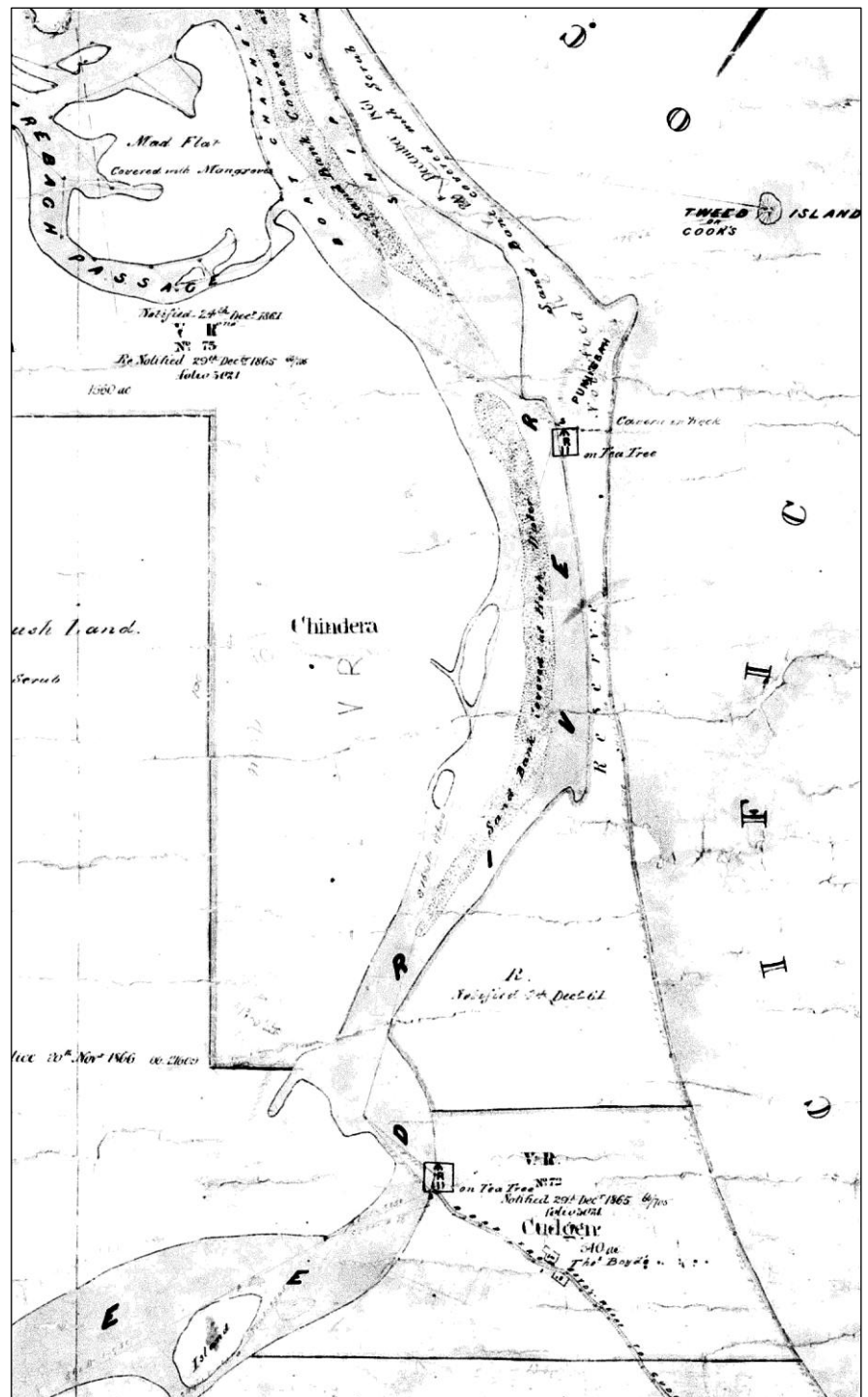


Figure 3: Part of Isaiah Rowland's survey plan of the Tweed in the vicinity of Chinderah and Cudgen April 1863.

Source: Land Records Service of NSW.

present-day suburb of Banora Point.) Banora Point was declared the site of a future village in 1884 (see Figure 4). The 1865 reservation from sale was continued, but it was now also reserved from lease. The sale of land was delayed as a result and so was the clearing of forest, until the rules were changed in 1890–1900 and annual leases were granted for the cultivation of sugar cane. The sale of land for urban development came later.



Figure 4: Part a subdivision plan for the village of Chinderah and suburban lands published in 1887. (Note: the urban parts of the proposed village were north of the river – present-day Banora Point. The suburban lands were south of the river – present-day Chinderah. The suburban lands are not depicted in this figure - they are below (to the south of) the bottom edge of the map.)

Source: Land Records Service of NSW.

Further evidence connecting the name Chinderah to *Diploglottis campbellii* comes from the catalogue of NSW timbers displayed by the Department of Mines at the Sydney International Exhibition of 1879 in the Sydney Botanic Gardens (the Garden Palace Exhibition). The exhibit included timber from a tree which was given the Aboriginal name Chindera (see Figure 5). The tree was assigned to the *Sapindaceae* family and like a number of other rainforest trees in the family it was tentatively put in the genus *Cupania*.

Chindera	Cupania sp.?	Height, 120 feet; diameter, 15 to 18 inches. Wood very hard and white. Clarence River.
Toonoom or Yellow Tamarind.	Diploglottis Cunninghamii. Ord. Sapindaceae.	Height, 60 to 70 feet; diameter, 2 to 3 feet. Locality, Richmond River. Wood white, turning red by exposure; durable.

Figure 5: Extracts from the catalogue of NSW timbers displayed at the 1879 Sydney International Exhibition.

Source: Powerhouse Museum.

The Chindera tree was said to come from the Clarence River. There are no existing records of *Diploglottis campbellii* from the Clarence, and this may simply have been an error in labelling. Alternatively, the reference may have been to the administrative region of the Clarence, which at the time included the Richmond and Tweed.

Robert Leycester Dawson, who lived in the Richmond Valley in the late 1870s, claimed to have cut trees to obtain samples for the 1879 exhibition on behalf of another resident of the Richmond River, Charles Hugh Fawcett. Fawcett was an avid amateur botanist who sent many plant specimens to the chief botanist at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens - Ferdinand von Mueller. Apart from organising the felling of trees to take samples of timber, Fawcett would have been in charge of labelling and assembling information on names, locations and characteristics of the trees. Fawcett mentioned collecting for the exhibition in a letter to Mueller dated 29 April 1879, writing: 'At present I am terribly busy — and rather in a fix, as instructions have not yet come as to size, &c, of specimens — so that I can do nothing but get the felling done.'

About a year before he became involved in collecting samples for the exhibition, Fawcett wrote to Mueller: '[a specimen collected at Emigrant Creek near Ballina] was sent to me as the flower of what is commonly called the red tamarind'. In that letter Fawcett mentions earlier sending Mueller fruit and seed of the Red Tamarind that he had collected himself. In 1879, after the exhibition had commenced, he wrote to Mueller – 'I am rather confused about the tree with the oblong fruit stone [Red Tamarind] and some now think that the flower sent to me, which I sent on to you, was that of the Yellow Tamarind, *Diploglottis cunninghamii*. If you can help me in my perplexity I shall feel grateful.'

Diploglottis cunninghamii – i.e., *Diploglottis australis* – has much smaller seed, orange-coloured fruit, much larger flower panicles and much larger leaves (see Figures 1 and 2). It is a little difficult to understand how Fawcett could have been so confused at that stage. He had already collected fruit and seed of *Diploglottis campbellii*. If a tree had been felled to secure a sample of timber for the exhibition, leaves could also have been easily collected, but it is possible they were not if some of the collecting had been contracted to others.

The panicle of flower buds from Emigrant Creek that Fawcett sent to Mueller is in the National Herbarium of Victoria. Fawcett's informants were correct; it was from a *Diploglottis australis* tree. There is also a panicle of flowers of this species that was part of Fawcett's personal herbarium and is now in the

National Herbarium of NSW (see Figure 6). It is likely to have been part of the same sample from Emigrant Creek.

Co-incidentally, the oldest remaining herbarium specimen of *Diploglottis campbellii* was collected at Tintenbar by William Baeuerlen in 1893. Emigrant



Figure 6: A panicle of flower buds of *Diploglottis australis*, possibly a duplicate of the specimen sent to Ferdinand von Mueller by Charles Fawcett in 1877 or 1878. This specimen is now in the National Herbarium of NSW.

Source: Australasian Virtual Herbarium.

Creek flows through Tintenbar. The trees from which the specimens of the two species were collected were probably not far apart.

As observed above, *Diploglottis australis* sets crops of fruit that are large enough that early colonists found it worth their while to make jam from them. The fruit of this tree would presumably also have been used by Aboriginals, so the question arises – did they have a name for it that distinguished it from Chindera?

Diploglottis cunninghamii (i.e., *Diploglottis australis*) was also listed in the catalogue of the 1879 exhibition (see Figure 5). It was given the common name Yellow Tamarind (the name used by Fawcett in his letter to Mueller) and the Aboriginal name Toonoum. In the 1861 list of north coast NSW timbers (in which the jam-making potential of the fruit is described) the Aboriginal name is said to be Achouloby. The author of the north coast section of this list was the director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore. Achouloby may have been the name used in the Clarence River district. In the 1861 list of southern NSW timbers, which was compiled by William Macarthur, it was said to be called Burrunedura.

As for Chinderah, further evidence in support of the use of the name Toonoum comes from a place name. The commonly used suffix ‘bar’ or ‘bah’ means ‘place of’ in northeast NSW Aboriginal languages. If it is added to the Aboriginal name for Native or Yellow Tamarind in the 1879 catalogue, we have a word that sounds like Toonoumbar, a place west of Casino, in the Richmond River basin, near where Fawcett first lived when he came to the north coast of NSW.

It is not absolutely clear who was responsible for giving the name Chindera to the sample of wood at the 1879 exhibition, though it was almost certainly either Fawcett or Moore, and more probably Fawcett. As the chief botanist of NSW, Moore was in charge of preparing the catalogue for the 1879 exhibition, but Fawcett clearly contributed a great deal on the timbers of the north coast. The collection of samples and the preparation of the catalogue was very hurried and occurred not long before the opening of the exhibition in September 1879. Some of the catalogue may have consisted of materials put together for previous exhibitions, work which was also supervised by Moore. Moore and Fawcett shared the practice of recording local Aboriginal names of plants. Not all European field botanists did. Moore

spent time collecting on the north coast of NSW in the early 1860s but probably not after that, and certainly not in the lead-up to the 1879 exhibition, which was around the time records first appear that *Diploglottis campbellii* had caught the attention of colonial botanists. Fawcett visited present-day Chinderah in February 1863 to attend to a murder inquiry in his role as a Police Magistrate. This was when surveyor Isaiah Rowland was busy preparing his plan of the area and naming features. Rowland’s base while in the Tweed was the hotel at present-day Chinderah where the murder occurred and at least some of Rowland’s assistants were there on the day of the murder. It is likely that Rowland and Fawcett met at this time. Tweed continued to be within Fawcett’s orbit in the late 1860s and 1870s, but not Moore’s. By this time, the place name Chinderah had become established.

It is perhaps also significant that the common name used for *Diploglottis australis* in the 1879 exhibit was Yellow Tamarind, the name used by Fawcett in his letter to Mueller. Moore had always used the common name Native Tamarind for this species in the numerous catalogues he had prepared prior to 1879. It would appear that for the catalogue of the 1879 exhibit, Moore chose to accept the common name for *Diploglottis australis* submitted by Fawcett. Likewise, Moore accepted Aboriginal names for this and a number of other species that were quite different from those he (Moore) had recorded in 1861, further evidence that many if not all of the Aboriginal and common names of the north coast species in the catalogue of the 1879 exhibit were the work of Fawcett.

I rest my case. *Diploglottis campbellii* was known as Chinderah by Aboriginals who lived at a place where it was once common – across the river from present-day Chinderah. Early European colonists adopted this name and also called it Red Tamarind. I think we in the Tweed should use Chinderah as the common name. Residents of the Richmond might prefer Red Tamarind. Small-leaved Tamarind should at best be a common name of third rank. In the northern rivers of NSW we should use Toonoum as the common name for *Diploglottis australis*, rather than Native Tamarind.



Lavender Creek

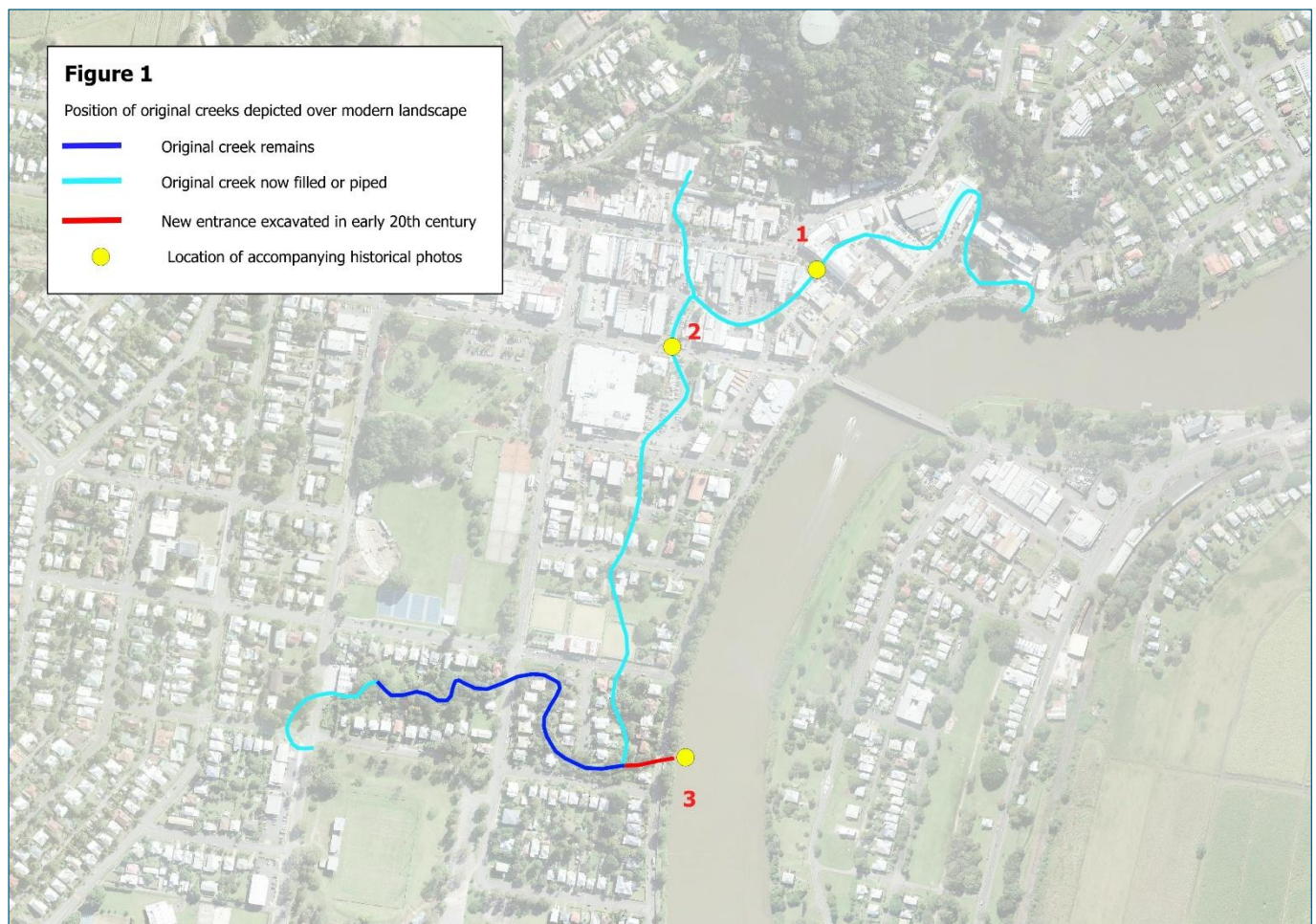
Part 1

The sad and sorry tale of Lavender Creek, the true name of which is Murwillumbah Creek, but was changed to mask the unfortunate and noisome consequences of colonisation.

The maps in this article were created by Henry James and mark the locations of photos 1 to 3.

Most of Lavender Creek was within land owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR) which commenced urban subdivision of its holding south of the Main Street in the late 1880s. The CSR's Murwillumbah South subdivision was bounded on its eastern side by the south arm, which is the main channel, of the Tweed River. But parallel to this, from south to north, ran a creek that emptied into the river near the new settlement of Murwillumbah, more properly its eastern edge, and outside the village reserve. The creek flowed from west to east on the southern edge of the subdivision until it took a left hand turn into the northbound channel. From where it crossed the Main Street near Broadway,

downstream to its entrance at the present day site of the Youth Hostel, the creek formed the boundary with the government township to the north. Even by the time the CSR had begun to sell off the subdivision in the late 1880s, the white settlers had treated it badly. One correspondent observed : 'The contract to clean out Murwillumbah Creek - a creek descriptively nicknamed "Lavender Creek" - is being fulfilled; a long-required work. The stench arising from it proving at times insufferable. Some of our sickness has been ascribed to it; but with the tidal waters flowing up and down, and the removal of decayed weeds, &c., the evil should be remedied.' This issue, along with flooding, dogged its history. The creek waters rose and fell with the tide. More problematically, the creek was a means for floodwaters to flow back into the low-lying parts of the town from the river. The problem was described in an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 17 March 1890 (a Monday). It read as follows: 'On Friday morning the river began to rise, and at 6 p.m.



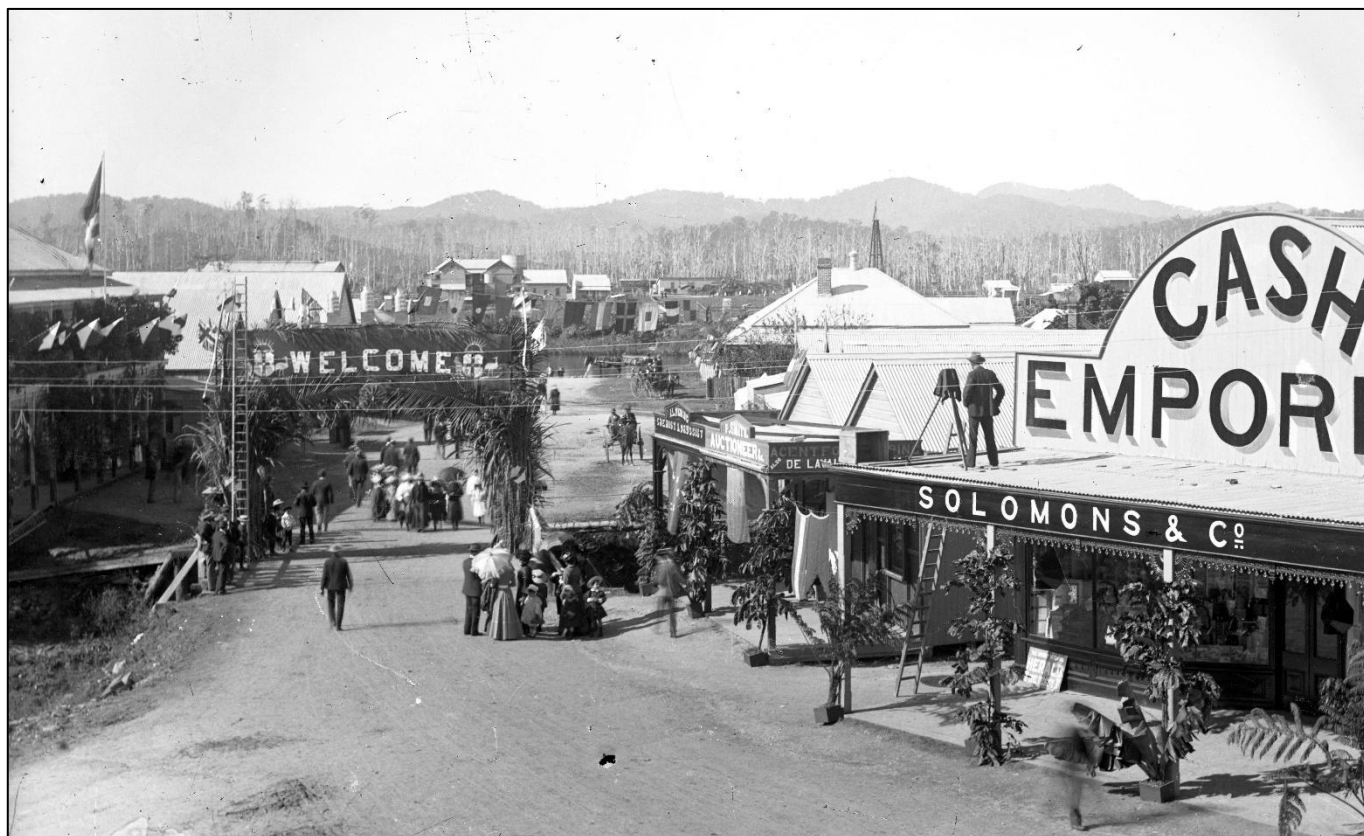


Photo 1: View from Broadway down Wharf Street to the river circa 1900. Bridge over Lavender Creek is underneath the 'WELCOME' sign.

Source: Tweed Regional Museum.

the public wharf, Murwillumbah, was a foot under water. The flood-waters continued to come down during the night, and, egress being impeded, the strong easterly breeze, which began to blow about midnight, rose rapidly on Saturday morning, and about 9 o'clock the water began to enter the lower part of the town, backed up by the Lavender Creek.' (This correspondent's evaluation of the flood was that '[t]he north arm is higher than ever known and the main arm at Murclarks [sic] is 2ft. lower than the flood of 1887.')

The creek was crossed by bridges at various points, the chief among them being that built where the main street of Murwillumbah crossed the creek. Again and again this bridge served as the location of an arch to welcome visiting dignitaries. One such occasion was described as follows: 'Mr. W. Wardrop read and presented His Excellency [Sir Henry Wylie Norman, the Governor of Queensland on the occasion of his visit to Murwillumbah in July 1891] with an address from the residents of the district, the place chosen being under the arch constructed over Lavender Creek bridge.' (Wardrop will appear again later, in a different role *vis-à-vis* the creek. When he died in 1918, the *Tweed Daily's* obituary praised him as

follows: 'The death of Mr. Wardrop removes one of the early pioneers of the Tweed, one of that small band of settlers who early visioned the vast possibilities following development, and whose strong faith in the worth of the district was backed up by their long residence and their endeavors [sic] to assist to the full in furthering all public movements calculated to advance the interests of the community.' He worked for the CSR, building mills in Ulmarra, Harwood and Kempsey, and being instrumental in the creation of the Condong mill; he built a store in Condong, and a branch at Murwillumbah; and he had 'rather extensive property interests in the town and district'. The *Daily* also felt it necessary to note that he 'took part in the movement to introduce municipal administration in Murwillumbah, and to his credit be it remembered he was one of those who successfully strove to prevent the extension of the area to an unwieldy size'.)

From the late nineteenth century Murwillumbah residents wanted to see the last of the creek, agitating for filling it in. When W G Collier died in 1900, his death was attributed to the condition of the creek. It was reported that '[i]t appears that on Sunday night [14 January] deceased was down the

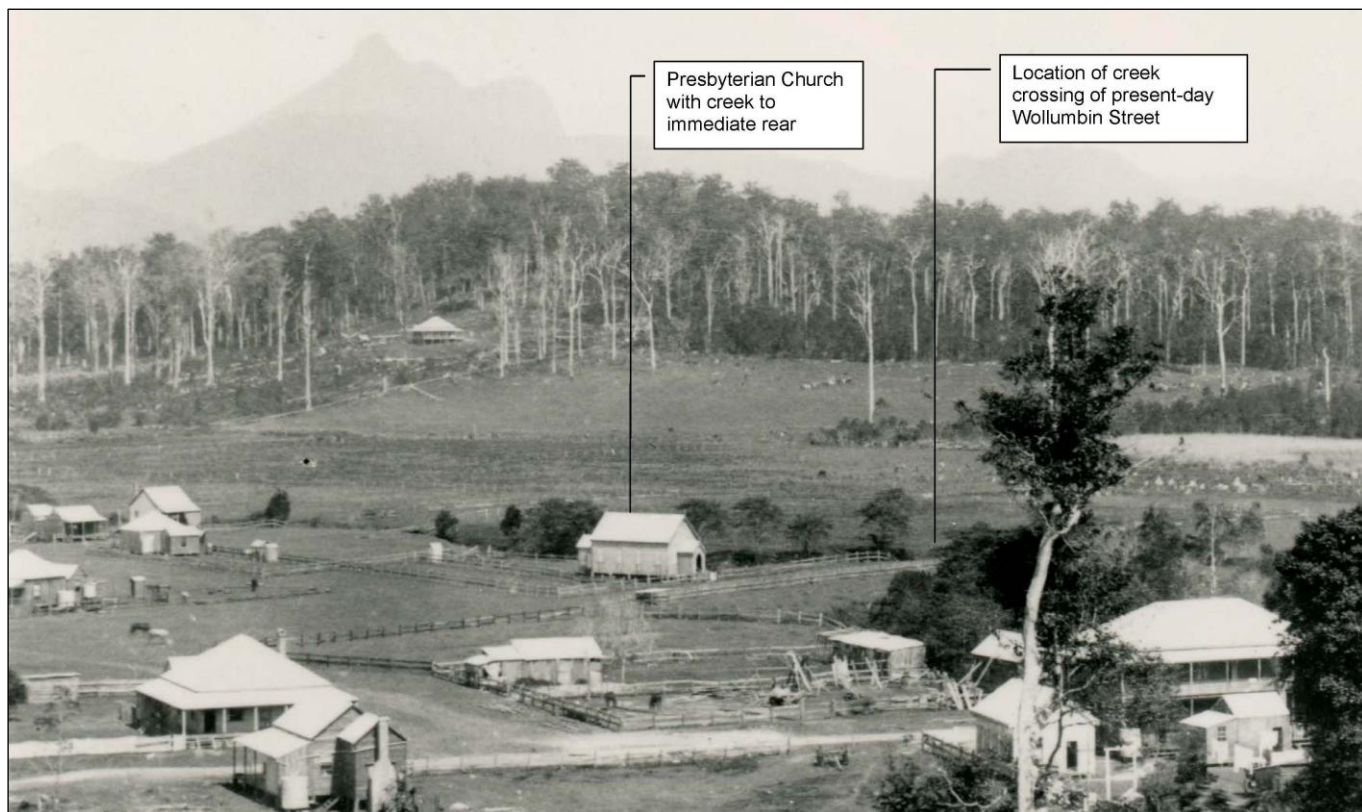


Photo 2: View to southwest from Ferryview Lane 1891. Lavender Creek is located just to the southwest of the church. It is lined with young regrowth trees.

Source: Tweed Regional Museum.

main street of the township, and on his return stated that the stench from Lavender Creek, a putrid stream in the centre of the town, made him sick. Yesterday he expressed a fear of typhoid fever, a case of which has already broken out on the banks of the creek'. (Collier was the first publican of Murwillumbah, then later kept hotels at Brisbane and Cudgen, before returning to Murwillumbah four months before his death to keep the Australian Hotel.) A little over a week later a 'most important, large, unanimous, and enthusiastic meeting was held in the School of Arts on Wednesday night [24 January] ... to consider the Lavender Creek nuisance' at the top of a list of other local concerns. A deputation was sent to Sydney, and the Government was 'requested to fill up the creek according to the plans prepared before next summer'. In early February it was announced that 'the Harbors and Rivers Department, will start cleaning out the filthy sewer tomorrow [6 February, though another report gave 3 February]'. By this time there were reports of a typhoid outbreak, with one observing '[t]he typhoid fever patient residing on the bank of the creek is progressing favorably'. In the following months there were further reports of updates to the proposed works, including the suggestion that £1,800 would be needed for

'something permanent' to be done about the creek, and the Minister for Works undertaking to 'note the work for the next estimates'. It was during the deputation's meeting with the Minister that Government approval was sought for 'a plan for filling up the lower part of the creek and diverting its flow into the river at a point higher up than the present one'. In November, the Government's additional estimates of expenditure included £3000 for 'improvements' to Lavender Creek.

Time passed. If 'W.J.D.', writing in May 1901 about the 'primitive districts that lie north of the Clarence and Richmond Rivers', is to be believed, all the above was for naught: 'Throughout the town there runs a circuitous creek known by the name of Lavender Creek. This depression is connected with the river at one end and a swamp at the other, and "let me tell you" that the stench that arises at night is something cruel. Besides the muck and decaying animals that float in there during high tides, the conditions are not improved by the towns people, who empty their night-soil into this running creek. The buildings are situated all along the banks of this corrupted stream and although they complain of the stench the people as a body remain silent and struggle along in their own selfish way. Some years ago the Government

placed on the estimates £3000 for the purpose of filling up this vile creek, but that is all that has since been heard of it.' And further: 'This circuitous [*sic*] Creek above referred to is a natural disseminator of disease, and it is a wonder indeed that ere this some serious epidemic has not broken out. It has been suggested that the whole creek should be "pitched" throughout, thus making a solid channel for conveying the polluted water to its natural outlet. To fill up such a colossal depression would absorb more funds than could be raised by rates in 10 years—hence the suggestion of turning it into a drain to minimise the stench that rises.' ('W.J.D.' also writes about Murwillumbah's opposition to municipal government at this time, predominantly because of a 'fear of municipal taxation'.) Yet ten days later there was a report that the 'sand-pump dredge Actor arrived here [Murwillumbah] last night [29 May] from the Tweed Heads to fill up the Lavender Creek'. And then a 3 June report that the dredge 'has commenced work dredging Condong Flat. She will, it is said, fill in Lavender Creek, that ill-named sewer of the town, at an early date'. The 'early date' turned out to be in August. Then again, in September, 'very shortly'. In January 1902 '[t]he necessary repairs to the dredge Actor are now practically completed, and next week she will commence the filling-in of Lavender Creek'. But she didn't – 'The sand-pump dredge Actor, which

after two months' preparation, was ready to start to-day at filling in Lavender Creek has been ordered down the river. Much indignation is felt, particularly as the old channel is blocked up.' It turned out that this was because of the 'land resumption question' – principally the objection of William Wardrop, one of the affected landowners.

The proposed works involved cutting a new and shorter path to the river near the southern end of the creek as well as filling the part to the north of this new exit. Both involved resumptions of private property and there were disputes over the quantum of compensation. See survey plan on following page which sets out some of the required resumptions. Not everyone was happy. In this case it was not the filling in of the creek per se, but rather with the personal loss incurred during the resumption process. In May of 1904, the parties were in court. William Wardrop sought damages of £1653 3s 9d in compensation from the Government; the Minister for Works' valuation of the estate and interest in the land resumed £308. Judgement was delivered in July 1904, the Judge awarding him £347 6s. It appears the other affected property owners were happy to indemnify the Government 'on account of the enhancement in value to the rest of their property, by the reclamation and construction of the dam [redirecting the creek to its new exit].

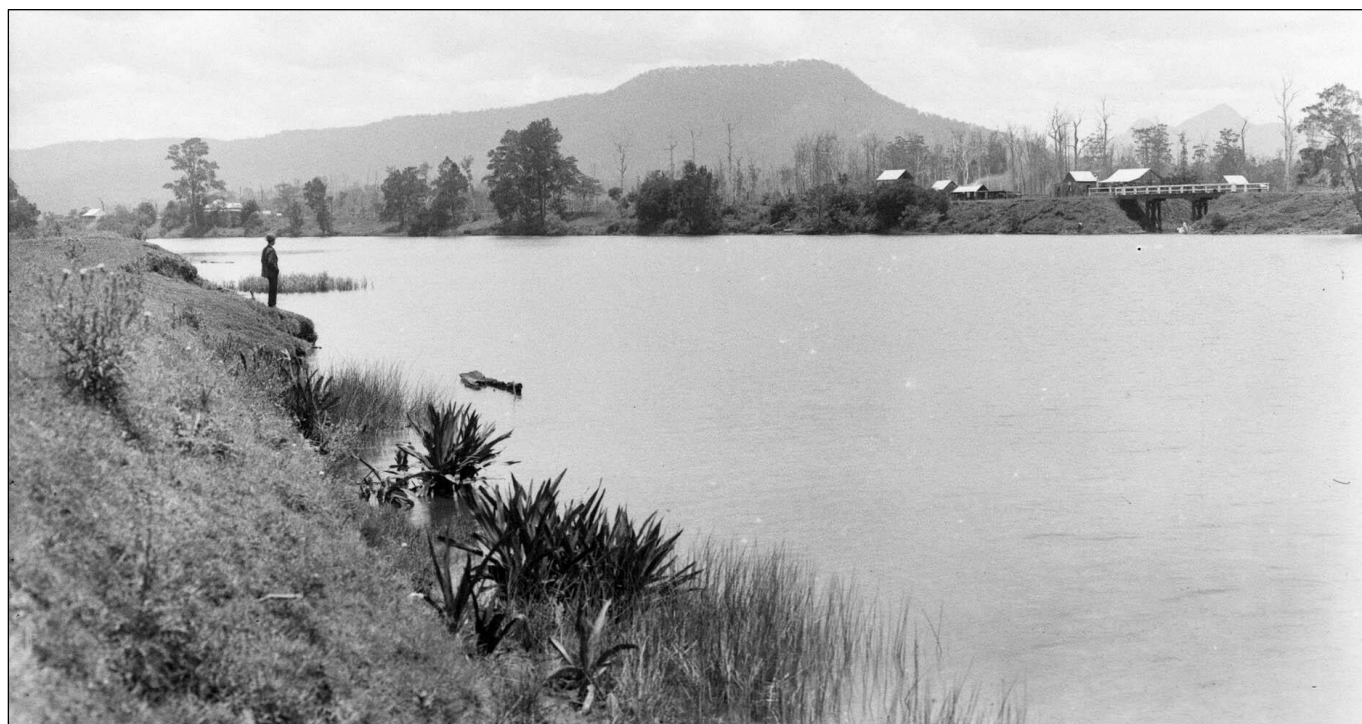
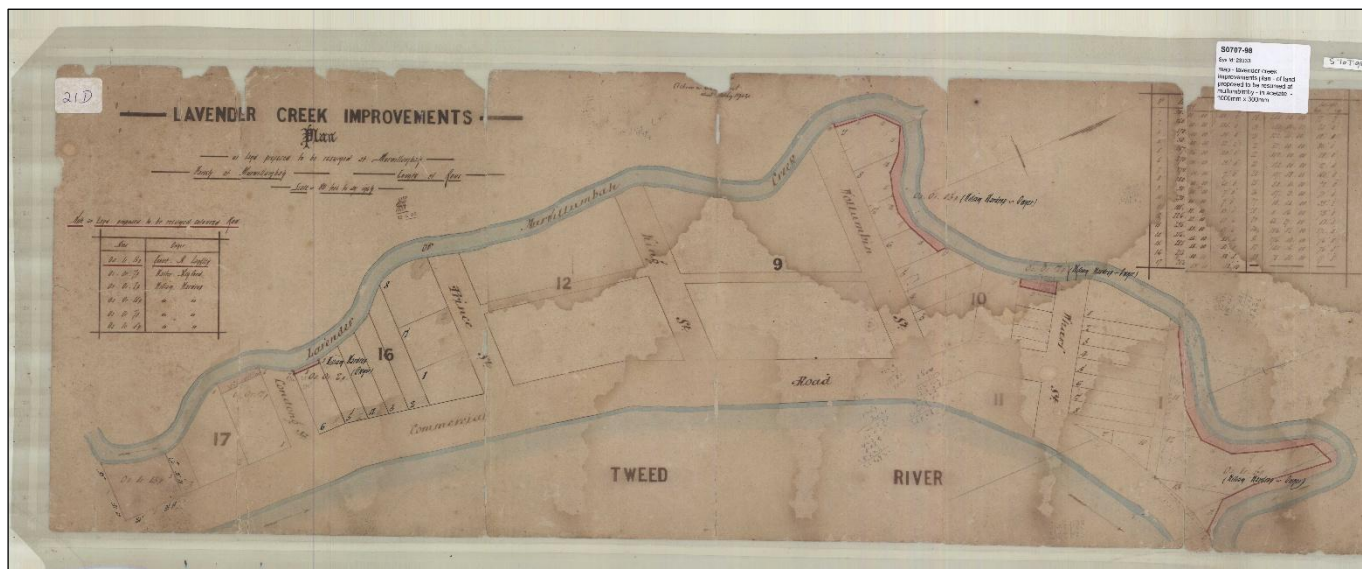


Photo 3: View upstream and across river to Commercial Road from South Murwillumbah 1905. The bridge at top right of the image had recently been constructed across the new southern entrance to Lavender Creek just north (downstream) of Hartigan Street.

Source: Museum of History NSW.



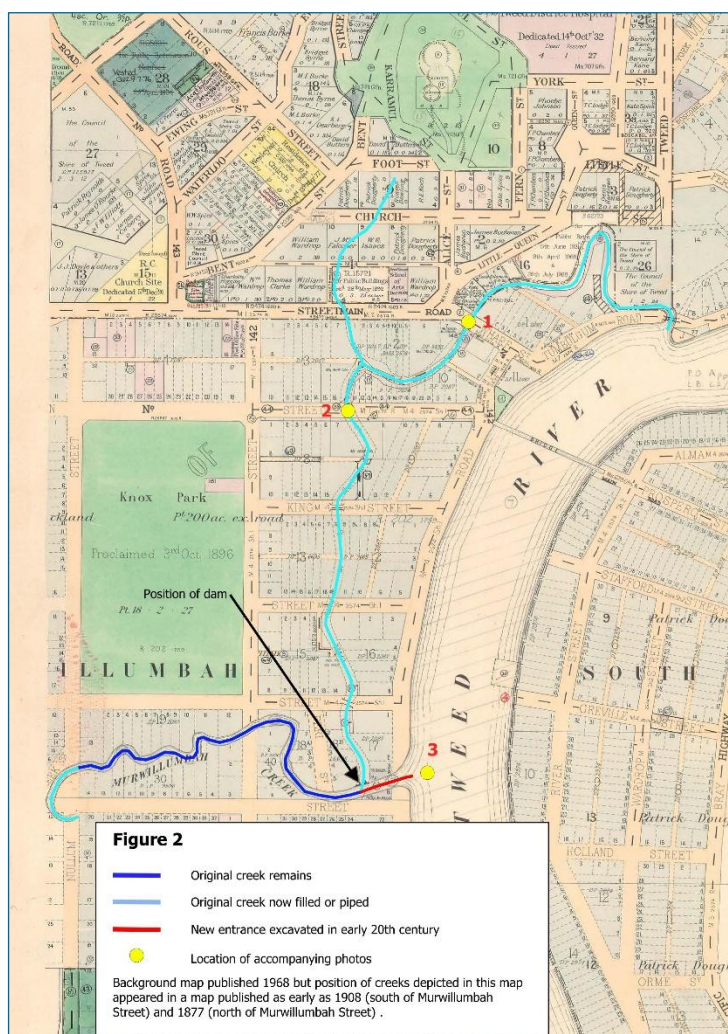
1902 plan of the 'Lavender [also recorded as Murwillumbah] Creek Improvements'. Resumptions required for filling of the creek and the excavation of the new exit to the Tweed River. (Resumed land along the creek shaded pink.)

Source: Tweed Regional Museum.

Over a year later, in November 1903, the long wait was finally bearing fruit: 'Operations in connection with the town sewer at Lavender Creek are progressing very satisfactorily. The sand pump dredge is now being removed from above the bridge to a spot below the structure, and will probably recommence work next week. The concrete drain through the creek is going on apace, and is nearing the main street. It is thought that the much-needed work will be completed within the next three months.' In July 1904 the dredging operations at Lavender Creek were complete. (The Lavender Creek works had diverted the *Actor* from other tasks thought necessary. One correspondent observed: 'At present, the Tweed river is in a very bad state and another dredge would be very acceptable. There are quite a number of shoals spots between Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads which urgently require attention. One of the reasons of this unsatisfactory state of affairs is the length of time the dredge "Actor" was occupied in Murwillumbah filling in Lavender Creek.')'

One would be forgiven for thinking that all was now right in the village of Murwillumbah. In place of the creek, there was now a partly filled drain running through the town. It was around this time that a complex of houses that came to be known as Solomons Row made their appearance, with an unfilled part of the creek on its western and southern sides and a filled

part on the east on the banks of the river west of the new dam. More ominously, with each seemingly more calamitous flood, there was now a more direct route for waters to enter the southern, remaining part of the creek and surrounding low-lying land.



The Back Page ...

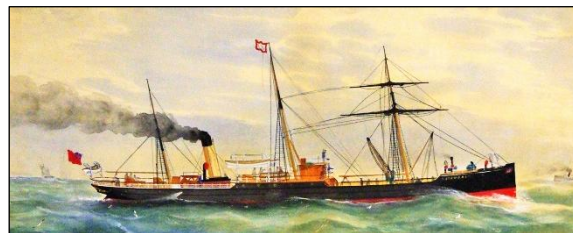
Finding Lismore



The photo of the schooner *Lismore* loading cedar at Byangum in the last issue of *Timelines* (left) has led to some travels down the byways of history. This is apposite, as in the magazine *Byways of Steam* it is described as the schooner *Lismore* loading cedar on the Richmond River. How could this ship

be in two places at once in 1884. Even more intriguing than its imitation of a quantum cat is that in 1927 it was recorded by Norman Cowan Hewitt in the *Northern Star* as loading cedar on the Richmond River in 1882. Moreover, in those years there were two ships named *Lismore* plying the coastal trade: the sailing ship *Lismore*, schooner rigged with three masts, built at Port Stephens in 1878 (above); and the steam ship *Lismore*, also schooner rigged with three masts, built in Dundee, Scotland, in 1880 (right). Both came to sad ends: the sailing ship was run down by

the steamer *Eurimbla* in 1891, with the loss not just of her captain, but also the cook; the steamer ran aground in 1885 at Ballina, with no loss of life.



Notwithstanding Tweed local patriotism and the State Library of Queensland labelling its copy of the photograph of the *Lismore* as having been taken at Byangum, there is no evidence that the schooner or the steamer was on the Tweed. Contrariwise, there are recording sailings of both to and from the Richmond River. Given this, the caption should read that the *Lismore* is loading cedar on the Richmond River. As to whether it depicts the sailing ship or the steamer is a moot point.

By the way, the name Lismore was not a lucky one for ships bearing that name during the nineteenth century. The brigantine *Lismore* built at Stockton in 1865 ended its sailing life wrecked on M Island of the Northumberland Group in 1874.

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.

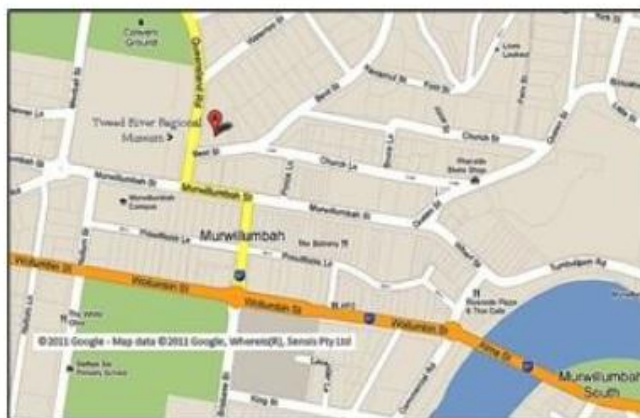
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ABOUT THE MUSEUM: The Tweed Regional Museum is a Tweed Shire Council community facility, established in 2004, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Tweed Shire Council and the Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki and South Arm Historical 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.