

TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 34

Family history

Are you new to family history research? If you need a helping hand, the Murwillumbah Historical Society can assist you. Over six one hour sessions you will receive a grounding in sound research practice and have hands on access to research resources, including an introduction to the holdings of the Tweed Regional Museum's Collection. The cost is \$10.00 a session. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please contact the Society's Secretary (secretary@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au).

From the committee ...

Bev Fairley informed the committee of Business Murwillumbah's receipt of a \$200,000 grant through the NSW Government's Regional Night-Time Economy Program. It will host four cultural events in Murwillumbah during 2026/2027. The first event, "Murwillumbah: Tales of the Tweed", will celebrate the history and identity of Murwillumbah and the Tweed Valley. It will be held from 28-30 August 2026. The Society has been asked to prepare some of the stories that will be used in the community storytelling component of the event across the CBD.

Social media

If you use Facebook, please follow the [Society](#) and share our posts.

The present posting 'campaign' is displaying random images from the collection of the Tweed Regional Museum Collection. Admittedly, the posts can be a bit wordy, but they also give the Society an opportunity to verify information held by the Museum about the image in question. More importantly these images give an insight into the individual and community lives of the people pictured.

Ritual @ the TRM

Ritual, a new exhibition exploring the traditions, gatherings and shared habits that shape life in the Tweed and celebrate the diverse cultures and communities that make our region unique opens on Thursday, 30 July 2026. Through light and darkness, harvest and celebration, memory and renewal, *Ritual* reveals the threads that connect us all. In a changing world, rituals remain, reminding us of who we are, where we belong, and how we come together.

Use these links to obtain free tickets to the [Curator Tour](#) and the formal [Exhibition Opening](#), both on Tuesday, 4 August 2026.

Our next meeting

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

11:00 am on Monday, 17 August 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

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

History in a box

The Parnassian

The first issue of what was to become Murwillumbah High School's magazine, *The Parnassian*, appeared in December 1923. It was launched with the pragmatic name of the *School Magazine*. Of course, this state of affairs could not last, and the second issue appeared under the name which it has held ever since. When the *School Magazine* appeared, the *Tweed Daily* took the opportunity to praise it - and itself: 'It is a bright, attractively produced and very readable magazine. ... The press matter contributed by the pupils is both versatile and interesting, disclosing that the youngsters possess imagination, humor and descriptive power — attributes that contribute to literary success. Those business people who lent assistance with advertisements are to be commended for their public spiritedness. "The School Magazine" was turned out at the "Tweed Daily" printery, and its general "get-up" reflects the master-hand of Mr. Jack Miller.'

So, what was in the *School Magazine* and the first issue of *The Parnassian* by name. Well, as far as the *School Magazine* is concerned, we may never know. No one has been able to find a copy. *The Parnassian*, on the other hand, can be seen on the Murwillumbah High School Archive (along with all subsequent issues to 2021 at <https://murwillumb-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-us/time-capsule/parnassian-archive>). It was numbered Volume 1, Number 2 (though numbering restarted with Volume 1 Number 1 in July 1929). The Editor, E R S Watson, BA, was the French teacher, so it is likely the magazine's name reflected his interests as a teacher, as well as his aspirations for its writers. Parnassianism, a French literary movement of the late nineteenth century, espoused 'art for art's sake'; Mount Parnassus was sacred to the Greek god Apollo, and also the Muses. The magazine's cover transferred these attributes to the Tweed, depicting Mount Warning's silhouette in its art, and the scroll surrounding the school's monogram reading 'The peak of Warning ... bosomed in the skies!'. With the cover, the magazine was thirty-six pages long. Eight and a half were advertising. The only students' work written under their own name was that of Edith Bothwell and Mary Tribe, and a primary student, Alice Malone. Other items appeared over pseudonyms. Some of the class notes had student authors – C Harding, Dulcie Salmon, Mary Kean, C Hodge, Myra Clough, Ina Corbett, and Dorothy Cane for the intermediate classes; N Stuart, E Joseph, H Jarman, C Battersley, and Anne Denson from the primary classes; the rest had anonymous authors. Sport had five pages. As for the remainder, the inside cover listed the staff and the 'editorial' team; page one was the editorial (reproduced below); and one and a half pages detailed the formation of the Murwillumbah Ex-Students' Union.

The *Tweed Daily* heaped praise on this second issue, writing that 'its contents approximate the classics', and called 'Edith Bothwell's prize essay ... a veritable literary gem'. The conclusion was that '[c]ollectively, [the students' contributions] reveal the high order of intellectual efficiency that can be attained at the school', with the rider that 'the young contributors [should] eschew the use of noms-de-plume and attach their own names to their articles'.

EDITORIAL.

What is the aim of a High School Education?

Some parents have a vague idea that it gives a certain "finish" to the child; but the majority who send their children to this school probably regard it as a step towards entering a profession, the public service, or some clerical occupation.

The High School certainly does provide the special training required for these callings; but it must not be confused with the ordinary business college or cram shop. It aims at something more than providing the child with a living; it gives him the culture necessary to enjoy his living. This is his personal gain.

There is another and much more important side to the curriculum. It fits the child to become an active and useful member of society. Both in his work and sport, he is taught the value of self-control and submission to discipline. He learns to regard himself as a part of an organism, a cell in the social body. Often his lesson only takes him as far as this. He becomes a mere structural cell, living his own life in harmony with the organism, and performing his set task. The High School pupil should go further than this. He is taught to think and exercise critical judgment. He has the whole world, and all ages, brought to his feet. In his school work and sport, in clubs and societies, in public movements supported by the school, he is given innumerable opportunities of becoming a live and active member of his school and town, of utilising his energies for the benefit of his fellows. There is every reason why he should become a vital blood cell, still living his own life in harmony with the organism to which he belongs, but taking an active part in building up the tissues of the social body. This would be for his own good, and of supreme benefit to the world. Let it be the aim of every girl and boy in our school.
