

TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 35

From the committee ...

The Murwillumbah Historical Society will be at the Tweed Regional Museum's Street Party. It is more than happy to sponsor this event. Come along and meet with us. Share your story and hear some of the stories we have collected over time.

The Society has also booked a place at the Murwillumbah Show. We will showcase our publications and members with local historical knowledge will be available to answer questions and take requests for research.

Street Party (soon)



With something to spark the imagination of every age, the Street Party promises an unforgettable celebration of creativity, connection and community in the heart of Murwillumbah.

Find all the information you need [here](#). Download the program [here](#).

Murwillumbah Show (earlier than usual)



The Murwillumbah Show presents a busy program across many agricultural sections and disciplines, bringing world class competition to competitors and entertainment and education to the public. A huge variety of Trade Stalls, Food Vendors, Exhibitions, Side Show Alley, Showbags and so

much more! Live music at the Branding Rail, a Rodeo and fireworks. The Murwillumbah Show is fun for the whole family.

Our next meeting

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

11:00 am on Monday, 17 September 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

Do we learn from the past?



Every week for the last eleven weeks the Society's has posted a random image to its Facebook page from The Collection at the Tweed Regional Museum. The images lend themselves to micro-research – to try to give what can be seen in the picture some context. An example is the image to the left. The post read:

The seventh in a series of random images from the collection of the Tweed Regional Museum. (In this case not so random as it is a sequel to last week's image.)

This photo is dated Tuesday, 23 January 1923.

The 'Tweed Daily' report reads in part (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article192095282>):

A sensational aeroplane smash occurred at Coolangatta yesterday afternoon, resulting in the wrecking of the machine, though fortunately the pilot and two lady passengers (Miss Cain and Miss Punch, of Brisbane) escaped unhurt.

Captain Percival, in his Avro plane, with two lady passengers aboard, was about to take-off from the beach for a flight to Brisbane, when, to avoid some children on the beach, who, disobeying the signals from the assistant, ran across the line of his take-off, he was compelled to swerve the plane into the water of the lagoon.

Exactly two years earlier Mary Evelyn Williams was not so lucky. Again the 'Tweed Daily' (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article190904965>):

While attempting to land an aeroplane with passengers taken up at Liverpool yesterday, Captain Percival saw an elderly man start to walk across the landing space and was obliged to slightly raise his elevation to avoid him. The aeroplane, taxied further than expected, scattering the onlookers in all directions. One little girl, aged 3 years, was struck by the under gear and killed.

The subsequent inquest exonerated Percival, placing the blame on the adults in the crowd:

If the adult portion of the crowd had set an example and obeyed the police when requested to keep back the accident would probably not have happened ('Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate', <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article103824690>).

As for the photo, again from the 'Tweed Daily':

... Messrs. Simpson and Bell, of Tweed Heads, secured a photograph, and within an hour of the accident had a splendid enlarged print 14in. x 12in. displayed in their window (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article192101280>).

So, dear reader! Did Captain Percival learn from history? Alexander Pope's admonishment is apposite: 'A little learning is a dang'rous thing;/Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:/There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,/And drinking largely sobers us again. Fortunately, Misses Cain and Punch did not pay the price for Percival's draught, shallow or deep, at the 'Pierian spring' (the source of knowledge).



Mary Evelyn Williams' grave, photographed by Geoff L Cook for the Find a Grave website.