

# TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 12

## Business as usual...

The Murwillumbah Historical Society's President, Beverley Fairley, had a planting day at her place at Kynnumboon. Aunty Jackie McDonald did a Welcome to Country and Mayor Chris Cherry attended. Bev reported that at the end everyone was sitting on upturned buckets in a circle just talking, a great end to the day.

A new project is the scanning of the Murwillumbah High School magazine *Parnassian* for inclusion in the Tweed Regional Museum's digital Collection.

The news from the Tweed Regional Museum Advisory Committee meeting is that in November the present exhibition *Omnia* will be replaced by *How to Draw a Dinosaur*. This new exhibition will 'delve into the fascinating interplay between scientific inquiry and artistic interpretation, exploring the enigmatic world of Australia's Cretaceous creatures'.

The Society's researchers, led by Joan Cuthel, are kept busy with enquiries seeking information about family members who lived in the area, and homeowners interested in the history of the house they live in. The enquiries addressed over the last month were about Edgar Curtis, W. G. Bishop, George Edward and Isobel Barnes, the O'Malley family, and John Decy and Lucy Jones.

### The Society on Facebook

As previously reported, Ian Batten posts on the 'Murwillumbah Matters' Facebook page, making the Society's name known in the digisphere. He is now a 'top contributor'. His most recent post asked the local community for the donation or loan of missing issues of *The Parnassian*. The response was most heartening. Check it out [here](#). The Society's Facebook page is [here](#).

### Publications

The Society stocks a number of publications about local history.

Among the most popular titles are Mary Kinsman's *Joshua Bray: A Tweed Valley Pioneer*; *Red Sunday*, giving the complete story of Murwillumbah's disastrous fire of 1907; two volumes of Tyalgum history - *History of Tyalgum and District* and *Pioneering and Historical Families of a Tyalgum District: A Pictorial History*; Norm Smith's *Under the Pinnacle*, describing the history of the Brays Creek; and *Reflections: The Tweed Valley Since Federation*, a collection of photographs of the Tweed Valley comparing yesterday and today.

A full list can be found at <https://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/books.htm>.

## Our Next Meeting

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

**1:00 pm on Monday, 15 July 2024, at the Society's Tony Clark Research Room  
at the Tweed Regional Museum.**

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# History in a Box

The Society was recently given a box of old newspapers and press cuttings. They did not fit the Tweed Regional Museum's criteria for inclusion in the Collection. Nevertheless, the Society has taken the time to look at what was in the box.

There were 135 items, including a sticker from the Royal Silver Jubilee visit of Prince Charles to Murwillumbah in 1977. The remainder were 45 cuttings and 89 newspapers, most of the latter being only a few pages, with 12 complete issues. Half of the newspapers were copies of the Daily News. The attached image shows changes to the paper's banner and its price went from 6 cents in 1969 to 90 cents in 2002 (the Saturday issue was \$1.21).

At first glance, the main subject of interest was floods.

The complete issues from 1974 concern

the flood. In February, the paper reported that it was going to take weeks to repair the damage caused by Cyclone Daisy.

Then a month later, in March, came a

second serve from Cyclone Zoe.

As if the district had not suffered enough, a violent

hailstorm cut a path through

Tweed crops in November.



Newspaper supplements included more information on floods ('75 years of Tweed deluges' in 1996); the highway upgrade ('... the Yelgun-Chinderah freeway opens' in 2002); the Banana Festival ('50 golden years' in 2005). There were also celebratory headlines: 'Big crowd sees [Murwillumbah] civic centre opened [by Gough Whitlam]' (30 August 1975). But as one of the Society's members commented when leafing through the newspapers, it is the advertising that is often the most interesting part of old newspapers.

