

# TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Number 14

**We will be there!**



‘Join the Murwillumbah Historical Society at the Tweed Regional Museum's Street Party on Saturday, 31 August 2024, from 12 pm (noon) to 7 pm, as we celebrate our community's rich history! Our society has worked tirelessly to research and preserve the stories of our local people and places, and we're excited to share our findings with you. This free event will feature exhibitions, activities, and entertainment for all ages, highlighting the Tweed region's fascinating history, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. We'll also be commemorating the Museum's 20th anniversary. As a valued member of our community, we invite you to see the program via <https://museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/street-party>. Come along and discover the fascinating history of our region and learn more about the important work of the Murwillumbah Historical Society!’

[This invitation was written by means of Meta AI.]

The Society's members will be working alongside the Museum staff. Joan Cuthel and Henry James, will be in the Tony Clark Research Room to greet visitors, showing the research we do and answering any enquiries. Beverley Fairley, our President, and Ian Batten will be in the Museum on Wheels (MoW) greeting the public, sharing stories in the Storytime Saloon, and also answering any enquiries. Our publications will be on display and available for purchase both in the Research Room and the MoW.

## Our Next Meeting

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

**1:00 pm on Monday, 16 September 2024, at the Society's Tony Clark Research Room at the Tweed Regional Museum.**

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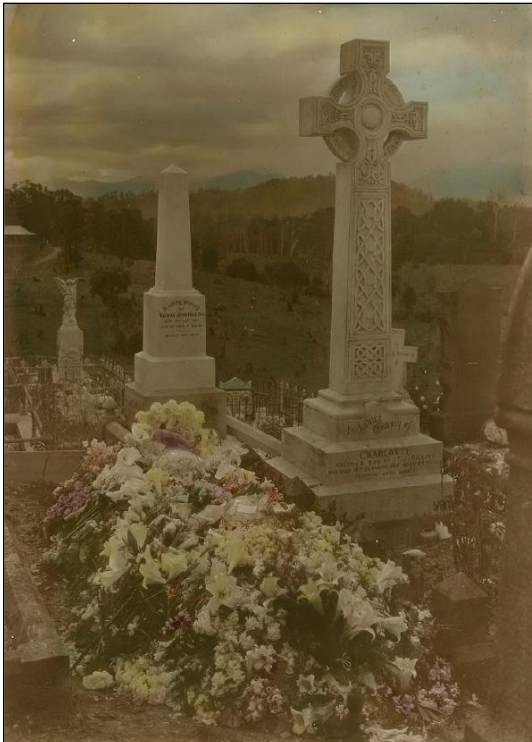
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## History in a Box

### When Murwillumbah should have been called 'Mooretown'

Last month 'History' wrote about the two women who created Newbrae Private Hospital on Mooball Street. This month it re-publishes extracts from the obituary of a woman whose contemporaries not only held her in the highest esteem, but recognised the positive impact she had on the development of Murwillumbah. (Read the full article on 'Trove', [Tweed Daily, Monday 19 January 1914, page 2.](#))



Charlotte Higgins' grave. Her second husband's (Thomas John) grave is behind hers. These headstones were removed when the first Murwillumbah General Cemetery (the Banner Street cemetery) was replaced by a Sacred Park in 1979. All that the Higgins (and Thomas Moore, Charlotte's first husband) have to memorialise their lives is a line the brass plaques giving name, date of death, and age at death.

Tweed Regional Museum Collection, Item 46473.

#### OBITUARY.

##### PASSING OF MRS. T. J. HIGGINS.

Yesterday, shortly before noon, Mrs. T. J. Higgins died at her residence in Brisbane street. The passing of deceased removes from amongst us a woman remarkable for her progressive spirit and keen business instincts. She was of the fibre from which Empire builders are made; resolute, undaunted by obstacles and with a profound faith in the district whither fate has directed her footsteps; a woman who, at all times, saw clearly before her, along the path she had mapped out, the goal which she had set out to achieve.

Deceased was a true pioneer, sturdy and self-reliant in the truest sense of the term. On 15th September, 1879, — the day 28 years later when Murwillumbah was to be devastated by fire, and on which date she was to suffer so heavily in loss of property — Mrs. Higgins, then the wife of the late Thomas Moore, arrived on the Tweed. Residence was taken up at Tyalgah and the fight for existence in those days, thirty-four years ago was, in such a sparsely-populated community and with few outlets for a livelihood, certainly not one for the faint-hearted and it was most assuredly due to her courageous spirit and indomitable perseverance that led her to lay the foundation on which she achieved eventually large landed interests in the town in which she first entered business. The Imperial Hotel was established on its present site about 25 years ago, and this business deceased capably conducted until about four

years ago. Her faith in the rise of Murwillumbah was unbounded, and early she began to invest in town property, when others hung back in doubt. On the eve of the bank smash, in 1893, deceased, watching the signs, invested heavily in town allotments, and when matters had sufficiently righted after the commercial upheaval she set out to demonstrate her faith in the resources of the district, and as means presented themselves, placed her capital in further house and land property. About that time, then, Murwillumbah might have been appropriately named Mooretown, for the larger and more substantial part of it had been erected by this far-seeing and keen business woman. Never has she wavered in her hopes for Murwillumbah's wide expansion, and practically up to the time of her death she had planned still further construction.

On 15th September, 1907, the whole of her main street property was wiped out by fire, and she was amongst those few who rebuilt with such expedition and demonstrated to a whole State the resourceful and self-reliant characteristics of the true Britisher. No farther testimony to the wonderful business instincts of Mrs. Higgins is needed than the Imperial block of buildings, her group of residences in Lismore road, the buildings erected in Wollumbin street, and along the half the lengths of both Brisbane and King streets, in South Murwillumbah, and of allotments elsewhere. These are a fitting monument to her industry.