

TIMELINES

In fifteen minutes

Busy, busier, busiest...

Number 19

Murwillumbah Historical Society has written in support of the Tyalgum Community Hall Management Committee's request for financial help from the Community Building Partnership 2025 for replacement windows and paint work. The Society values built environments such as the Tyalgum Hall not just for its history but because of its continuing importance as a community hub, a message the President Bev Fairley has been happy to convey to Rona Quayle, the Committee's treasurer.

Bev, along with Pauline Hibbard and Natasha Green, attended the Court House Hotel celebrations. Betty Hamill was also there. The Society congratulated Matt Tillett, the Hotel's manager, on the anniversary.

Max Boyd, the Society's Vice President, launched his book *Saving Paradise The Tweed Under Siege* on Friday, 14 February. The booked venue was overflowing with well-wishers. On behalf of the Society - well done Max!

Bev Fairley is the speaker on a Tweed River boat tour most Wednesdays. She introduces visitors to the geological, Aboriginal and colonial history of the Tweed, as well as that of the rainforest environment. She uses this opportunity to promote our district, the Museum, Art Gallery and, not least, the Society – all are 'well and truly recognised'.

The meeting

We welcome new member **Geoffrey Huxley** to the Society.

The Society's Annual General meeting will be held in April. Membership renewal notices will be sent in March. But you can beat the rush by paying dues early. Drop us a line (phone or email), and we'll provide you with our account details.

January-February was a busy period for research. Thirteen enquiries were fielded. The Society provides research for free.

A shout out to the *Timelines* authors – Henry James, Ian Batten and Robert Budd. Over the last year we have also had articles from Diana Eriksen, Greg Fox, and Kerry Spelling. Join this worthy group of writers and send the Society your story!

Future event

Our next social event is a talk on the history of the Indian residents on the Northern Rivers. Betty Hamill has booked the Balcony room at the Murwillumbah Services Club for Monday, 31 March 2025 at 10:00 am. The address will be followed by lunch. The speaker will be Mrs Norma Mann. More details will be provided in the next *Timelines In fifteen minutes*.

Our next meeting

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

1:00 pm on Monday, 17 March 2025, at the new venue, Murwillumbah Services Club, River Room.

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 'Palmvale Poet'



STELLA SNOW

A happy by-product of an enquiry about Palmvale Post Office has revealed that, following her marriage to Collin Partridge, Stella Snow lived in the Tweed Shire for a number of years. Who was Stella Snow, you ask? She was the author of *Fireside Poems*, published in 1930. While she was what in the field of pop music would be called a one-hit-wonder, she provides an insight into the concerns of an artist in the 1920s and 30s.

Born in 1898, she grew up in Bangalow. The temperance movement was a notable part of her early years. At the age of twelve she was reciting 'Vote for me, Daddy' at an International Order of Good Templars 'no-license' meeting. In 1927 she represented the Bangalow Women's Christian Temperance Union at the annual convention of the North Coast Temperance Council. She was thirty-two when *Fireside Poems* was published. Five years later she married Collin Partridge whose wife Bertha had died two years earlier. Collin was twenty-eight years her senior. They lived at Palm Vale, though later moving back to Bangalow. Collin died in 1956. In 1957 she married William Campbell, and they lived in Manly, a Brisbane suburb, where she died in 1977.

Unsurprisingly, her poetry has a definite religious sensibility; but it does not lack a secular practicality. *Fireside Poems* deals with a wide range of subjects: friendship, love, the travails of growing old (grey

hairs at thirty-two), as well as local politics imbued with a good dose of self-help. Below are re-printed two poems, one from the *Fireside Poems*, the other published in the *Tweed Daily* on 8 May 1946. They are moments of our past caught by the 'Palmvale Poet'.

To One Who Brought My Mail

I'm grateful for the sunshine,
For every flower and tree,
I'm grateful to the neighbour
Who brought my mail for me.

He may not think I noticed
The distance that he rode,
Nor did he know his mail-bag
Contained a precious load.

But now I send this greeting
Before it is too late,
To let him know his kindness
I did appreciate.

The Grader in Our Street

There's a buzzing and a chugging [*sic*]
And a rush of children's feet—
What a whirr of friendly music—
'Tis the Grader in our street.

Hark! the melody of earth clods,
As in rugged ruts they fall—
We will travel now in comfort,
For the Shire has heard our call.

You who go to famous concerts,
Sit in stalls with the elite,
Have you ever heard the music
Of the Grader in our Street?

