

Bray- A Man of Many Skills.

Soon Bray was not only postmaster at "Wollumbin" Post Office, as it was called, he was appointed clerk of petty sessions, a justice of the peace, a police magistrate, coroner, gold-mining warden and, after his brother James left the district for another appointment, Crown Land Agent. He was also licensed to perform marriages.

When sickness or accident struck, he rendered what medical help he could to the victim. He also extracted offending teeth, and judging from the reminiscences of an "old hand" he was rather to be feared when he had the forceps in his hand. There were no pain-easing injections in those days!

Bray's Final Days

Bray was also one of the first sugar cane growers in the Tweed. He lived to be nearly 80 years old and in his last days he gradually relinquished many of his activities.

The local newspaper printed in his obituary that he "first crossed the Richmond Ranges bringing cattle to the Tweed and first camped at the Blue Knob, where he made his way through scrub and forest, over flooded creeks and miles of swamps, but went on notwithstanding. This was the old man that old hands loved to talk about-athletic, venturesome, shrewd, far-seeing -the true type of pioneer. He saw the Tweed grow, perhaps, more than any"

Bray's brother, his wife's parents and several members of her family also came to the Tweed and settled here.

Murwillumbah District High School was opened in 1928 on Dennis Hartigan's property, with 262 pupils. Early days saw many students board in town or travel by train, sulkies, horseback, bicycle, or just walk long distances to school. Gradually buses relieved the transport problem

for country students. Sporting facilities were limited but the school was allowed to use Knox Park for football and had use of the town tennis court. When WW2 broke out, the school was actively involved in raising money for the armed forces. Students contributed sixpence per week to invest in war saving certificates to help finance the war effort. Money was raised from community raffles and a Junior Red cross was established. Slit trenches criss-crossed the school playground, dug by the pupils' fathers and luckily, used only for practice. Of the 438 ex-pupils who responded to the call of duty, 30 lost their lives.

Tweed District Kindergarten. The first kindergarten in Murwillumbah began in the late 1960's, in an unused building on the showground land. The present building, leased from the showground, caters for children aged 3-5 years.

Sacred Heart Church and Mount Saint Patrick's Primary and Regional High School. The original Sacred Heart Church (now the Catholic Hall) was built in 1896 and the present brick building was built in 1936. The Presbytery, on the corner of Queensland Rd. and Murwillumbah St. was built in 1910. The old Convent, built in 1903, next to the Sacred Heart Church, originally housed about 20 nuns of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Order. The school was opened in 1904 on St. Patrick's Day. The original wooden building is now a community hall in one of the nearby villages. Mt St Patrick's Primary and Regional High School, service the Murwillumbah and surrounding parishes.

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Bray Park Walk



**"MURWILLUMBAH
ON THE MOVE"**

**STAY TRIM & KEEP FIT
WITH
EASY EXERCISE**



