

April 2025

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

17 Myokum Street MULLUMBIMBY 2482

Email: admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au Phone: 02 6684 4367

OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM - 12 PM

MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM

The Great War Rolls of Honour

In the story on Mullum's maddening apathy at The War Memorial Marathon we drew attention to the lack of a 'Roll of Honour' perpetuating the memory of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice (as Mayoress Bertha Chew put it when unveiling the Memorial Columns at the entrance to the new Memorial School of Arts on Anzac Day 1930.) Almost every small town throughout Australia erected a public memorial to mark their community's participation in The Great War, highlighting the names of those who gave their lives along with those who answered the call for defence of mother England. The rationale for Mullumbimby's failure to follow suit continues to baffle.

We've attempted to resolve the long-standing oversight by compiling a list of those volunteers from the 'Brunswick River District', defined as the area from Coorabell to Crabbes Creek and inland to Goonengerry, mainly using as a guide the Mullumbimby Star's 'Roll of Honor – List of District Men Helping Civilisation' of 13Sep1917 and the Honor Roll read by the mayor on Anzac Day 1920 (published 29Apr1920), supplemented by the Honour Boards held in the Anglican, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches and RSL Clubrooms at Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads.

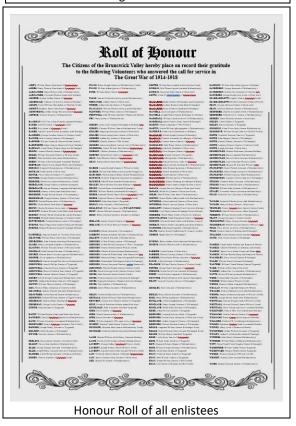
All up, 318 enlistees were distilled from the lists, inclusive of 55 dead, by eliminating those deemed to be outside the 'Brunswick River' catchment area who, in most cases, are included on honour boards in their respective local area. Nevertheless, there are still a few duplications, eg **George** and **Tim Bambery**, who died at Gallipoli within a day of each other, 26/27Apr1915, are listed on the Billinudgel Honour Board, as well as both the Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads Memorials, whilst we have elected to only include George, given that upon enlistment he was a farmer of Crabbes Creek while his brother Tim was a farmer of Midjinbil who is also separately listed on the Uki War Memorial. Both Bamberys are profiled in the Murwillumbah Historical Society's article at Bambery Murbah Timelines.

Also profiled by Murbah Historical Society at <u>Rice Timelines Jul2016</u> are the four **Rice brothers, Henry, Sylvester, Edward and Robert**, giving their hometown as Burringbar, but we have included Henry in the Brunswick list given that he was living in Mullumbimby with wife **Nellie Healey** upon enlistment.

Conversely, we have listed all five sons of **Horatio Johnson** of Tyagarah, viz Marmarduke (who did not serve overseas), Alfred, Charles, Frederick and Harmond, even though they separately feature on the Bangalow Public School Roll and the Bangalow-Clunes Roll (held Bangalow RSL Memorial Hall), as well as the Tyagarah Roll



Honour Roll listing those who died on service

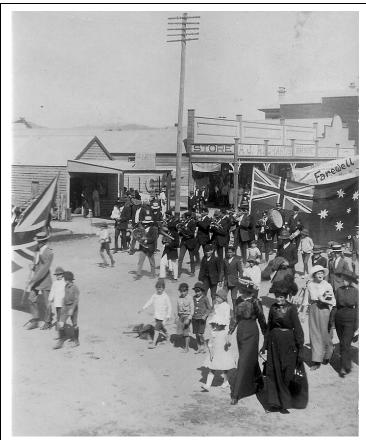


of Honour (held Mullum RSL) and the Billinudgel Honour Roll (held Brunswick Heads RSL). On Harmond's Archive documents, Horatio is quoted as saying "This son was one of six of my sons who enlisted, five in the A.I.F., and one in the Navy (Rueben), two of the others were wounded, one twice, the other 3 times, two of them were away just on 4 years."

The names were collated and incorporated into the above 'Rolls of Honour', which were forwarded to the management of the Memorial Civic Centre and committee of the Mullumbimby sub-branch of the RSL with the suggestion that they be reproduced in A2 size, suitably framed and mounted next the columns in the Civic Centre. (Many names are worthy of a fleshed-out story, for which we refer you to Christopher Gray's book For King and Country; Letters in the Mullumbimby Star, from The Boys of the Brunswick in The Great War 1914 – 1919, published by BVHS 2008.)

The First Send-Off

A public farewell to the first five enlistees was held in the School of Arts on Thursday evening 27Aug1914 and fully 250 or 300 attended.... On Friday morning The bugle call sounded at 6am, and from then on the streets were beginning to get alive with people. The Light Horse, Militia and Cadets assembled at the drill hall together with other citizens, and a procession was formed, which marched to the railway station headed by the town hand



Farewell parade passing McGoughan's Lane, Burringbar Street.
On their journey to Brisbane 'the boys' were also given receptions at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads, finally arriving at Enoggera army camp 11pm Friday night.

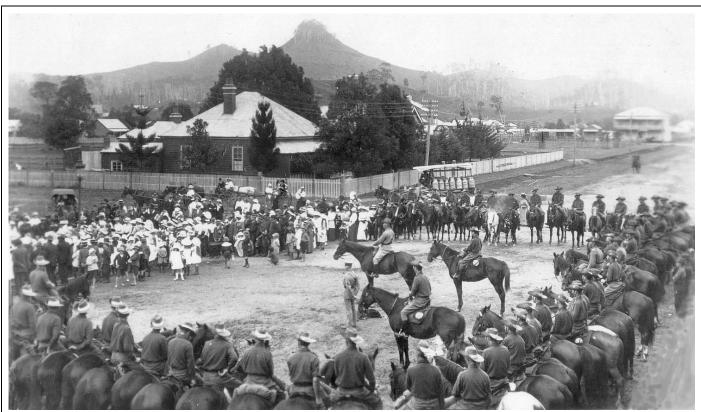
marched to the railway station headed by the town band. Each side of the road and the streets were literally crowded with people, while the buildings were profusely decorated with flags and colours of red, white and blue....

Of the 'M'Bimby Five', 19yr old Berry-born Methodist butcher Henry Clark was evacuated from Egypt to England in 1915 to have his right foot amputated; 21yr old Tamworth-born Presbyterian policeman Francis Murray was invalided from Egypt to Randwick Military Hospital where he died in 1917; 22yr old Lismore-born Presbyterian railway porter Fred Falls was evacuated from France to England in 1916 to have his left hand amputated; 19yr old Mullum-born Presbyterian Joe Laverty of Wilson's Creek and 30yr old South African-born Anglican Maurice Weeks, a local carpenter and Boer War vet, eventually returned home relatively unscathed.



'Mullumbimby's Farewell To Her Boys', says the banner created by Ray Pullinger. L to R beneath banner: Henry Clark, Fred Falls, Joe Laverty, Francis Murray, Maurice Weeks.

Thereafter every edition of the *Mullumbimby Star* carried the names of more enlistees, including **Norm Jones** of Crabbes Creek, of whom it was stated at the welcome home reception organised by the *Protestant Alliance Friendly Society* for he and **Joe Laverty**, that he was the first to enlist from this district, he having enlisted two hours after the declaration of war by England. He left his 21yr old brother **Edward** behind in a Gallipoli cemetery.



A squadron of the Australian Light Horse on parade, possibly on Belgian Day, Friday 14May1915. (A Light Horse camp, comprising units from Murwillumbah, Bangalow and Mullumbimby, 75 men all up, had just assembled for joint exercises at the showground, and on Belgian Day with Militia, Cadets and Rifle Club fell in at the School of Arts, and headed by the Light Horse piper marched through the town to the Post Office where patriotic addresses were given.... All the speakers stressed the fact that more and more recruits were still required and advising all who possibly could to join at once..., as of late the number has slackened down somewhat, and it is felt an effort should be made to revise the enthusiasm....



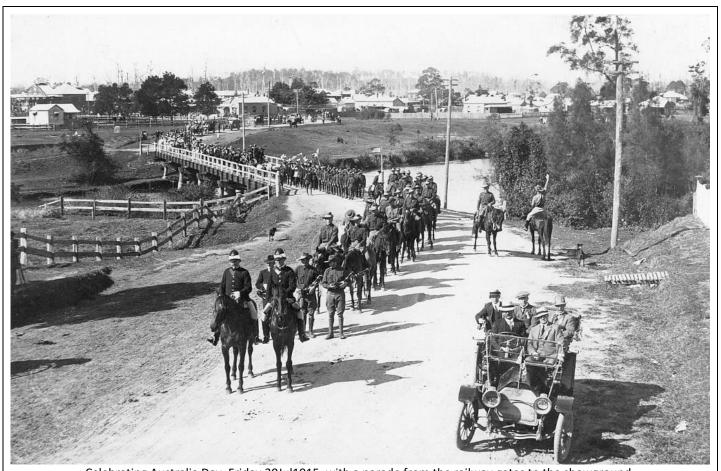
Possibly the 'open air' recruiting rally of 25Sep1915, initiated by the *Mullumbimby Recruiting Association*. There were no takers, prompting Mayor Davidson to belatedly hold a public meeting to form a *War Service Committee*, which later merged with the Recruiting Association after many references to 'shirkers' and 'white feathers'.



Probably the same Recruiting Rally of 25Sep1915



Ditto. All addresses delivered from the Post Office steps.



Celebrating Australia Day, Friday 30Jul1915, with a parade from the railway gates to the showground.

The procession was timed to leave the railway gates at 10am... on its mile march to the grounds.

Mounted police headed the procession, followed by a pipers' band. Then followed the Light Horse, and the Mullumbimby Band, Militia, and Rifle Club.

Decorated motor cars and cycles took a prominent part, as did the most original comical turnouts.... Fully 100 children dressed in costumes representing all nationalities marched in procession.... A big lorry was gaily and artistically decorated and fitted to carry about 15 school children representing the Allies. Britannia was the central figure, supported by Australia and the Allies....

Horse, military, pedestrian, dancing and piping events helped to fill the programme of the day's sport, and everything passed off without a hitch....

There is no doubt that all expectations were fully realized, and more so, especially in the procession, which would hold its own with any of the city carnival processions so far as quaintness and enthusiasm are concerned....

(39yr old Mullum solicitor Nathanial Moriarty, foundation OC of Mullum's D Troop, C Squadron, 4th Australian Light Horse, was seconded to Enoggera as an instructor Oct1915, formally enlisted 1Apr1916 and assigned to the 41st Battalion, formed at Enoggera Feb1916.

Also in Oct1915 10 of his Light Horsemen further depleted the ranks of the local citizen force when they went off to Lismore for medical tests prior to enlistment, viz Troopers A. Fernance, A. Simmons, E. Onions, H. Mitchell, S. Gray, D.D. Campbell, G. Sommerville, C.W. Gibson, H. Cowan and S. Booker.

And 2wks later, some 12 members of the local Light Horse are leaving Mullumbimby to join their comrades in camp at Enoggera, having passed their medical test in Lismore a few days back....

Rolls of Honour

Notwithstanding the post WWI apathy, the early war years were deemed of great import by the Mullumbimby district residents, resulting in the unveiling of many expensive 'Rolls of Honour' by institutions and communities to commemorate the sacrifice of families, friends and neighbours in service of the mother country.



Honour Board from St Clement's Anglican Church Billinudgel, unveiled 14Sep1919, now housed at St Martin's Mullumbimby.



Billinudgel Honour Board, unveiled in the School of Arts pre Sep1919, now housed in the Brunswick Heads RSL Clubroom



Methodist Honour Board now housed in Mullumbimby Uniting Church Hall. (Made by Pullinger & Son, unveiled 17Aug1919)



Presbyterian Honour Board now housed in the new Mullumbimby Church Office (unveiled 27Oct1916)



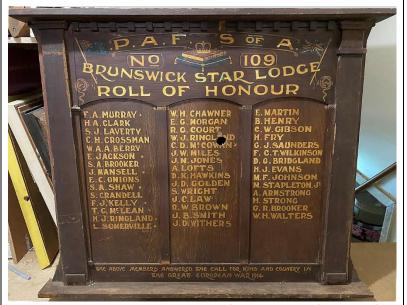
Tyagarah Honour Board, unveiled Tyagarah School of Arts Hall pre Jun1920, now housed Mullumbimby RSL Club Rooms.



Federal and District Honour Board unveiled in the Federal School of Arts 27Mar1917



Durrumbul School Honour Board, unveiled Empire Day 1918, now housed Mullumbimby RSL Clubrooms. (Made by Messrs Brown & Jolly, Lismore)



Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australia Roll of Honour of members of the Loyal Brunswick Lodge of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, originally unveiled in the Oddfellows Hall 2Jul1917, thence this updated version in School of Arts 2Sep1918 now housed BVHS Museum. (Original made by Messrs Pullinger & Son)



Mullumbimby Parish, unveiled at the Official Opening of St Martins Memorial Church 25Mar1925.

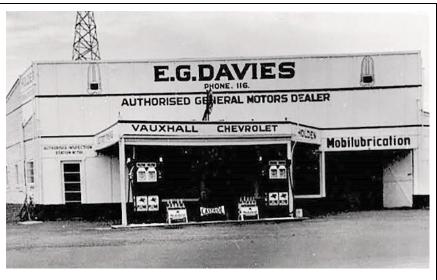
[Two Honour Boards were unveiled in the old Anglican Church 15Feb1916, made of polished oak by Ray Pullinger, and erected on each side of the altar, one listing 62 enlistees and the other those who had died in action.]

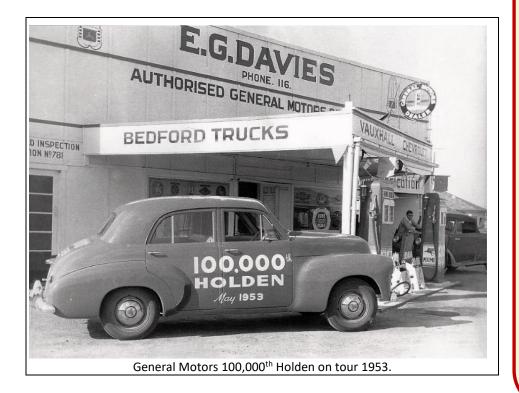
These Boards of Honour would be best preserved by display around the walls of the Memorial Civic Centre as a perpetual reminder of Mullumbimby's heritage and evolving corporate culture. (*This was who we were....*) They may also prompt contemplation on the part played by the Anzac legend in defining our national character and the currency of such values as national pride, civic duty, courage, endurance, mateship....

UPDATE

In response to our Newsletter Story of Feb2025 on the history of the garage/service station on the corner of Argyle and Prince, Rick Davies, son of proprietor Eric, has generously provided us with these additional photos.







Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

This newsletter is written by and for the members of the BVHS Inc

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Jacqueline Smith

<u>Heritage Representative</u>

Chris Cooney Susan Tsicalas

Newsletter: Members Public Officer: S. Tsicalas.

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

Please email contributions for the newsletter to admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

*Deadline for newsletter items LAST FRIDAY of the month

NEXT MEETING: Tues 8th April @ 10.30

MUSEUM HOURS -Tuesdays

and Fridays 10.00-12.00 Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET (8.00am - 2.00pm)

Next Market- Saturday 9th April mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au



FINAL REMINDER FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2025

Membership Fees	Payment Options	
Adults \$15 Concession \$10 Students \$5 Printed mailed copy of newsletter add \$10	Cheque payable to Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc PO Box 378 Mullumbimby 2482	Direct Deposit BSB: 032583 Westpac Account No: 201192 Reference: Your name
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