

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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Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained herein is correct. In the case of any errors noted please contact 02 6674 9500

Bray Park Walk



**"MURWILLUMBAH
ON THE MOVE"**

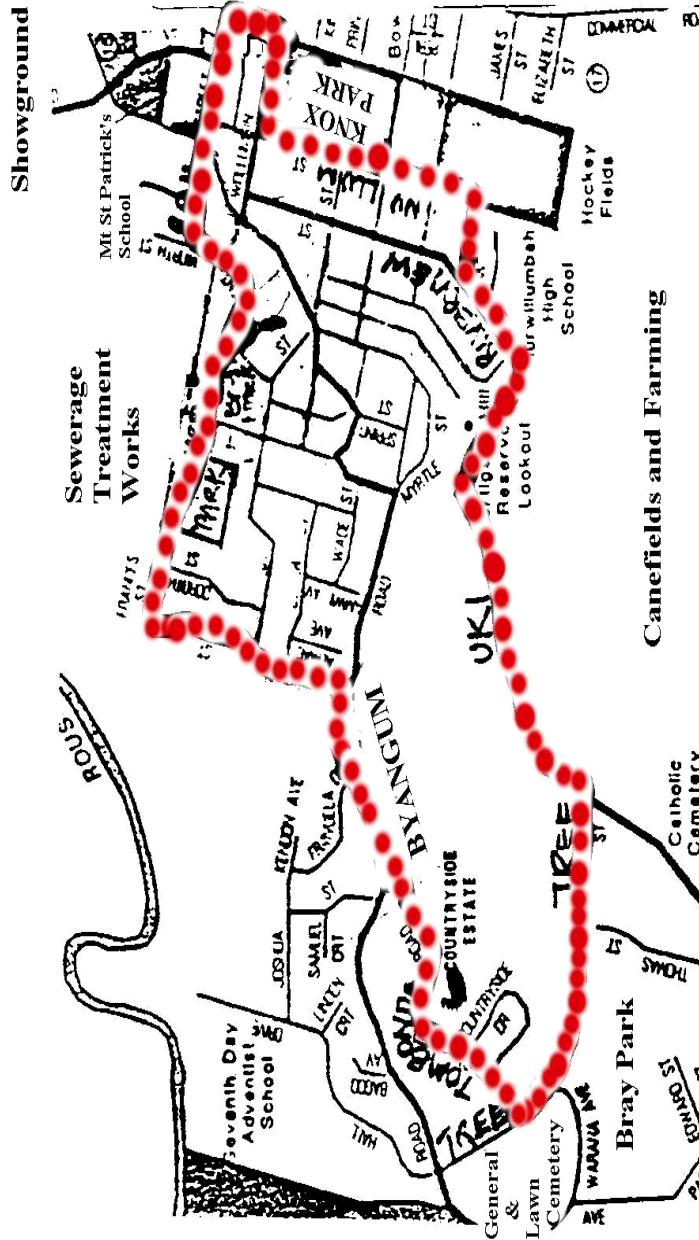
**STAY TRIM & KEEP FIT
WITH EASY EXERCISE**

The series of brochures on Historic Walks of Tweed Shire are for information purposes only. Please consult your doctor or health professional before undertaking any historical walk to ensure the activity is appropriate for you.

BRAY PARK WALK

Grade: Medium

Distance: 6.9 km (Return)



DIRECTIONS

1. Knox Park Rotunda. (public toilets, parking area).
2. Cross park and turn left into **Nullum Street**. Walk past the Sikh Temple and right into **James Street**.
3. Walk up **James Street** to **Riverview Street** and turn left and walk past Murwillumbah High School.
4. Walk along **Uki Road** to **Bray Park**. Enjoy the views of cane fields across to Mt Nullum and Mt Warning. Walk along bicycle path and cross to Tree Street bicycle path.
5. **Tree Street Bicycle Path**. Walk up Tree Street to the end where the bicycle path begins and ends, opposite the Lawn Cemetery. Turn right and then left into **Tombonda Street**.
6. **Countryside Estate**. Walk past Countryside Estate, turn right into **Byangum Road**.
7. Walk up **Byangum Road** and across into **Barnby Street**.
8. Walk down **Barnby Street**, turn right into **Francis Street** to soccer field in **Wilward Park**.
9. Walk across both fields past **BMX Bike Track**.
10. Cross road into **Everleigh Lane**.
11. Turn left into **Wentworth Street** and walk up to the top of the hill for views of showground and Murwillumbah township
12. Turn right into **Murwillumbah Street** past Tweed District Kindergarten/Mount St. Patricks School to Post Office. Turn right at Post Office.
13. Return to **Knox Park** along **Brisbane Street**.

HISTORY

Bray Park was named after **Joshua Bray**, who played an important role in the early development of the Tweed Valley, where he spent more than half a century. When he died in 1918 it had become a very different place to how it was in 1863 when he arrived aged 25. When he first saw the valley, it was almost untouched, except for some aboriginal habitation and the scars of the cedar cutters work. There were no roads, only a few tracks made by the cedar-getters, no towns or villages, a few basic structures for shelter, no clergy, churches, schools or postal facilities, medical or dental services. Aborigines still hunted in the forests or fished along the river.

First Post Office

Bray constructed a house of pit-sawn timber, which he built for the arrival of his wife, Gertrude Nixon, from Tumut, NSW. He named his home "Kynnumboon" At that time there was no official mail service on the Tweed.

Bray decided to organise his own private mail service between "Kynnumboon" and Ballina, where there was a post office. This arrangement proved rather difficult, as it was an 80 km journey. Bray pressed the authorities to establish an official mail service for the Tweed Valley. He succeeded, and in 1866, the first post office to be established in the area was opened for business on his property at "Kynnumboon", with Joshua Bray as the first post master. The mails were brought from Casino once a fortnight on horseback.

Reference: Denning, H.W "The Sunkissed Playground - An Historical Manuscript of the Tweed" Daily News Offset Print 1994. p46-7