



NEWSLETTER

TWEED RIVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (TRAS)
T/AS THE MURWILLUMBAH SHOW



Jenni and Gemma, mum and sister of Riki Funari with Belinda Grace (Treasurer) and Allan Brown (VP) of TRAS

| Feature Story

The Riki Funari Craft Prize (Ages 13–17)

The Murwillumbah Show is proud to introduce the Riki Funari Craft Prize, established to honour the memory of a young woman whose love of creativity touched many lives.

Riki Funari, the daughter of Jenni Funari, passed away at the age of 36. Although she had no children of her own, she formed close bonds with the children of family and friends, generously sharing her time and teaching them the many craft skills she loved. Through her patience, encouragement and enthusiasm, she inspired a new generation to discover the joy of making things by hand.

Determined that Riki's passion would continue to inspire others, Jenni has created a legacy in her daughter's name. She has established a perpetual fund with a local financial institution, with the annual interest providing cash prizes for craft exhibitors aged 13 to 17 at the Murwillumbah Show.

In May, the Tweed River Agricultural Society welcomed Jenni and Riki's sister, Gemma, to a board meeting where they spoke movingly about the profound loss of a daughter and sister, while also celebrating the kindness, creativity and generosity that defined Riki's life. The Society is deeply honoured to help preserve Riki's memory through this prize, ensuring that her love of craft continues to encourage and reward young people for many years to come. The details of the prize will be announced once the final details are discussed between Jenni Funari and the TRAS board and Pavilion Stewards.



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

TWEED
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Murwillumbah Show is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors and the dedication of our volunteers. The Tweed River Agricultural Society sincerely thanks Tweed Shire Council for its \$11,000 grant towards the 2026 Show.

We also welcome Council's encouragement to strengthen our environmental focus and are committed to practical initiatives that reduce waste and promote a cleaner, greener show while preserving the agricultural traditions and community spirit that define this important event

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THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I'm really getting excited about the 2026 Murwillumbah Show, as exhibitor sections in the pavilion are finalised, entertainment acts are confirmed and our wonderful sponsors and volunteers kindly offer their support.

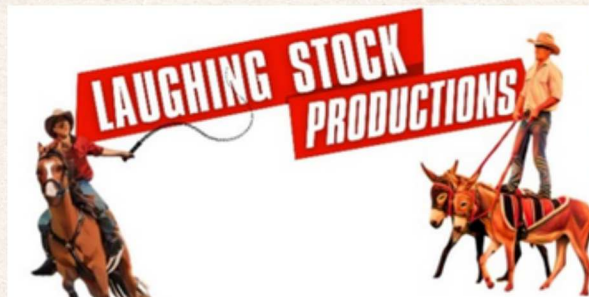
We've got some fabulous entertainment being organised and entry tickets will give you access to it all. On Friday night, we'll have all the usual excitement of the Rodeo, plus the fun of some boot scooting, line dancing and two special competitions being organised by our Junior Committee; the 'Best Beard' and most 'Magnificent Mullet'. More on that to come, but if you'd like to be involved, now might be the time to grow your hair.

On Saturday, along with the equestrian events in centre ring, and entertainment by FMX stunt bikes, the hilarious team from Laughing Stock Productions will be performing two thrilling and funny shows. With horses, donkeys, precision riding and lots of action, Laughing Stock Productions provide 'not-to-be-missed', action-packed fun for all the family.

There are many factors to consider when planning a huge event like the Murwillumbah Show, and financial support is certainly significant. In 1899, the Show Society used the services of an imported bull, on loan from the Government, to raise money. The bull called 'Captain' was transported on the S.S. Electra to Byron Bay and from there travelled to Murwillumbah by rail.

It was expected that 'Captain' was an Ayrshire but on arrived, it was clear he was a Holstein. Despite initial disappointment, farmers paid 15 shillings per service and 'Captain' became very acquainted with many local cows, helping to improve local milking herds. Funds raised from Captain's service were used to build showground facilities. We don't have 'Captain' today but we do have amazing sponsors who support the show financially and we are sincerely grateful for their generosity.

Sandra Hawken



Diesel Specialist

ALL ENGINE REPAIRS

MURWILLUMBAH

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INTRODUCING OUR NEW PHOTOGRAPHY STEWARD – JAY PENFOLD

The Tweed River Agricultural Society is delighted to welcome Jay Penfold as the new steward of the Photography Section for the Murwillumbah Show.

Jay is a well-known Northern Rivers photographer whose early work in the music industry captured such greats including Sia, The Prodigy, Def FX whilst working for various record labels including Polygram and Shock Records.

He has also a cookbook to his credit, photographing the work of many chefs throughout Asia. His recent work captures the people, places and personalities that make our region unique. His portfolio reflects a genuine passion for storytelling through images, photographing some of the region's best-known performers and personalities. www.jaypenfold.com

As Photography Steward, Jay brings not only technical expertise but also an enthusiasm for encouraging photographers of all ages and experience levels to exhibit their work. Whether you're entering the Show for the first time or are a seasoned exhibitor, Jay is looking forward to seeing the creativity and talent our community has to offer.

Photography has always been one of the Show's most popular pavilion sections, preserving moments that become part of our local history. We are excited to have Jay join our volunteer team and look forward to seeing the Photography Pavilion continue to grow under his guidance.

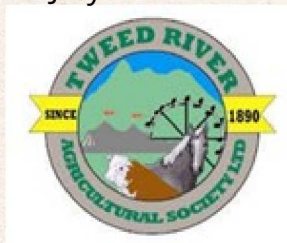
Welcome to the Murwillumbah Show team, Jay!



Fairy Pools Scotland - photographer Jay Penfold



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Thanking a Sponsor - Tammy Ayres from McGregor Gourlay

One of my many foibles is a lifelong love of J.R.R. Tolkien. I often find myself comparing everyday events to scenes from Middle-earth and today is no exception as I thank Tammy Ayres from McGregor Gourlay.

In "The Return of the King", Gondor is under siege by Sauron's armies. In the film, the Steward of Gondor refuses to light the beacon that would summon help from neighbouring Rohan, so the Hobbit Pippin secretly lights it instead. One by one the signal fires blaze across the mountains until Rohan answers the call. (In the book, Denethor orders the beacons lit, but that's far less dramatic)

Anyway...

That's a little like Tammy and McGregor Gourlay during the lead-up to this year's Show. Every time we've needed help, they've answered the call. General sponsorship? Tammy answers the call. Need animal feed? Tammy answers the call. Need a sponsor for the Young Woman of the Year competition? Tammy answers the call. Time and again, they've stepped up to support the Show and the community.

McGregor Gourlay was founded in 1897, just one year before the first Murwillumbah Show, and today has stores nationwide. They specialise in animal health and nutrition, fencing, steel, livestock handling equipment, weighing and EID systems, pumps and poly pipe, stock and pet feed, as well as home and garden supplies, safety gear and work boots.

You'll find McGregor Gourlay at Unit 3, 61-65 Quarry Road, Murwillumbah. They're open Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm and Saturday from 8.00 am to 12.00 pm. You can also give them a call on (02) 6671 3900.

Whatever you need around the farm, garden or home, give McGregor Gourlay a call.

They answer the call in your time of need.





NEWSLETTER

From Pens to Memories: The Rise and Fall of Pigs at the Murwillumbah Show

When the first Murwillumbah Show opened its gates in 1898, pigs were among the livestock that reflected everyday farming life in the Tweed Valley. Few farms were complete without a piggery. Pigs converted household scraps, dairy by-products and surplus produce into valuable meat, providing families with bacon, ham and an important source of income.

As the district prospered through dairying, bananas and mixed farming, pig numbers also grew. At one time the Tweed Shire had 1,150 piggeries. Show day became an opportunity for local farmers to compare bloodlines, exhibit stock and exchange ideas. Champion ribbons carried genuine prestige, recognising the skill of breeders from across the valley.

For much of the twentieth century, the pig pavilion was a familiar and popular feature of the Murwillumbah Show. Local breeders proudly displayed their Berkshire, Large White and Tamworth pigs, with judging highlighting the importance of sound breeding and good husbandry. The first Murwillumbah Show had 9 pig categories including the "Poland China" breed that could average 300kg for a boar and 250kg for a sow. For trivia fans the largest pig ever recorded was a Poland China Boar "Big Bill" that weighed in at a massive 1,158kg.

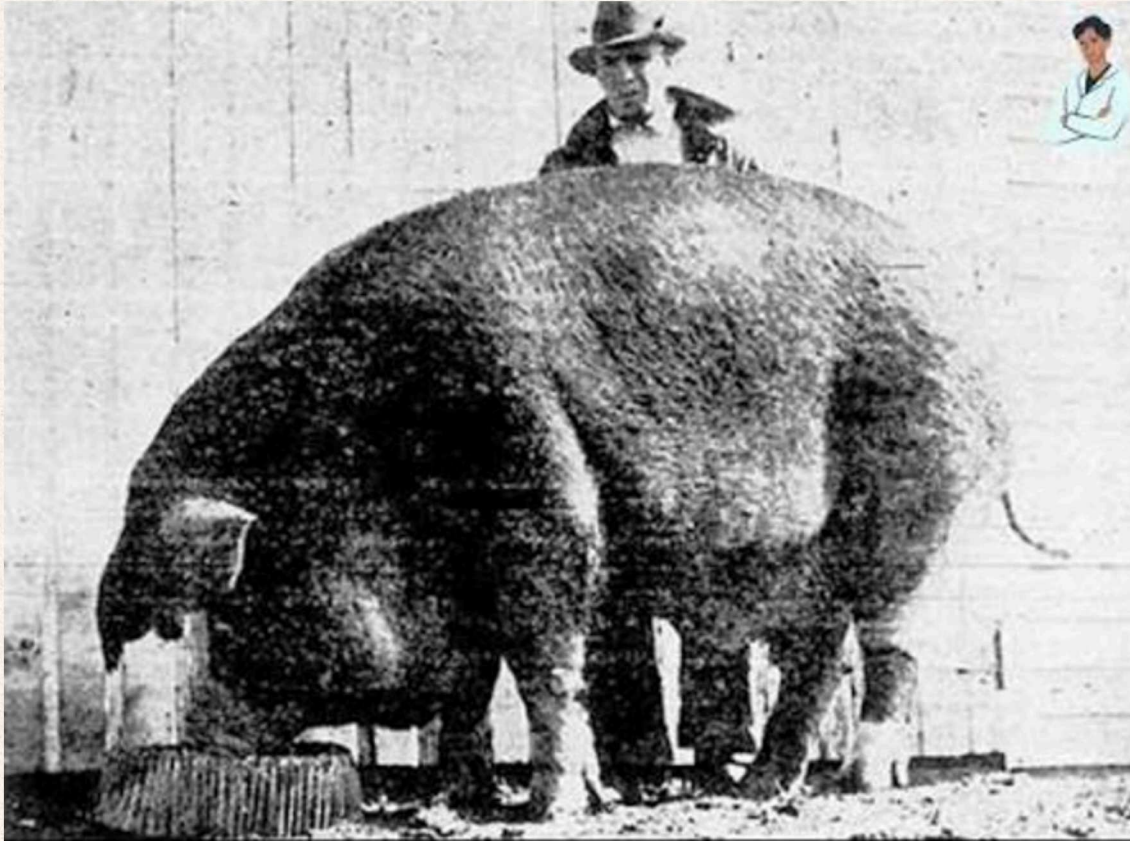
By the 1970s, however, agriculture was changing. Small mixed farms were declining and commercial pig production was becoming more specialised. At the same time, increasing concerns about livestock diseases and the risk posed by moving pigs between properties led to much stricter biosecurity requirements. Those disease control concerns ultimately brought the pig section at the Murwillumbah Show to an end. While disappointing for exhibitors, the decision reflected a growing understanding of the importance of protecting Australia's livestock industries.

Today, the pig pens have disappeared, but they remain an important chapter in the history of the Murwillumbah Show. For more than seventy years they celebrated an industry that helped feed the Tweed and supported generations of farming families—a reminder of how both agriculture and our Show continue to evolve with the times





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The **largest pig** on record was a **Poland-China hog** named **Big Bill**, who weighed **2,552 lbs**

 **Solo** Resource
Recovery

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**EDWARDS
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