

# THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

Wardell Community Centre. 9 Sinclair Street, Wardell NSW 2477

Issue # 15 December 2011

[blackwall-bugle@bigpond.com](mailto:blackwall-bugle@bigpond.com)

Telephone 02 6683 4561

The Wardell School of Arts moved into a new hall on Richmond Street on 18 May 1927. The building was named the Richmond Hall. Fine timber from the old School of Arts was used in the construction of the new hall which was built by Mr Small at a cost of £1500. The building contained a stage, a billiard room and an extensive library. At the rear of the hall was a separate building - the Wardell RSL Hall. It was destroyed in a cyclone in early 1950.

## Lest We Forget



The hall is now known as the 'Wardell and District War Memorial Hall' in honour of the many young volunteers from the area who left these shores to serve their country. It has been cared for over many years by a small band of Trustees and a Hall Committee.

The Blackwall Historical Society is taking steps to ensure that the hall and cenotaph are registered as war memorials and Ballina Shire Council is offering to assist the Trustees in preparing an action plan for the best use of the hall into the future.

The plaque on the memorial that stands in the small park on the eastern side of the entrance to the Wardell Sports and Recreation Club reads:

**“Great War 1914-1919. This grove has been planted in memory of Wardell & District fallen soldiers June 24<sup>th</sup> 1925”**

It is a lovely peaceful grove that is well maintained by the club caretaker, Vic Bridges. But there is a mystery -

The Wardell Sub-Branch RSS&AILA on 13 August 1955 carried the following motion:

“Moved by G.R. Stewart and seconded by A.O. Tuddenham that this committee approve and assist in the removal and placing of the War Memorial Stone from Recreation ground to a site near the Hall.”

**Rest in Peace**





## Empire Vale Public School Celebrating Our Success

The students of Empire Vale are about to embark on a very productive project that will involve the students, teachers, parents and the wider community.

Working with the big idea that a school garden may enhance a school's environment, promote a healthy lifestyle and be a special place to learn about the world around us, the project will encompass a whole range of learning experiences.

It is hoped that the School Garden would be the start of an ongoing interest by all those involved to provide garden beds with edible plants that can be consumed by the students and supported by the surrounding community.

It will start small and grow and evolve with the school's educational needs. There would be an amazing variety of learning experiences to be had covering all curriculum areas (yes photography, mathematics and robotics too!) for all students in the school.

Research has shown that active learning enhances children's understanding of their environment and the results of their actions. School gardens serve as living classrooms. Students can apply academic subjects such as Environmental Studies, Mathematics, Languages and even Creative and Practical Arts. Children can practice their social and life skills and learn, hands on, how to grow healthy food and eat well.



When parents and the community become actively involved the gardening techniques and healthy eating are able to be adopted into the children's daily lives at home.

An excursion to Wardell Nursery to experience 'Garden Fever' was arranged for the K/1 class last term. They took a walk through the nursery to see different kinds of plants, tools, workspaces, ways of displaying plants, demonstrations of some heavier garden equipment and they even participated in the re-potting of seedlings. The students loved being able to take home their very own baby plants to look after back at school.

The gardening project will work alongside and complement the great variety of other programs running such as 'Crunch and Sip', 'Kids in the Kitchen' and 'Healthy School Canteens'.  
**Mrs Ally Mead**



## Cabbage Tree Island Public School established 1893



**Bobie and Yerana on the boardwalk.**

On the Eastern side of Cabbage Tree Island, the K6 Public School is at the heart of the Cabbage Tree Island community. The grounds offer a safe and attractive natural environment that encourages staff and students to take part in outdoor recreational and educational activities.

Unique to this school is a wooden boardwalk that winds through the mangroves and incorporates large bays that can be used as outdoor classrooms. The project was a cooperative venture between Wetland Care Australia and the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council. It was built by community members.



**Acting Principal Shanene Phillips.**

The overall impression of the school is that it is a happy and caring environment where students and teachers work together to prepare for the future whilst maintaining important cultural links to the historic local community. Literacy and numeracy are the main academic priorities. Discipline and personal responsibility are evident amongst the students and a healthy food programme is in place to encourage the eating of fruit that the children bring to school each day.

Acting Principal Shanene Phillips has been at the school for over eight years and teacher Jenny Frost for more than eleven years. They are well supported by an early childhood teacher, an administrative officer and a part time general assistant. Shanene says that Cabbage Tree Island School has a great relationship with all the local schools.



# Wardell Community Centre

♦ 9 Sinclair Street Wardell ♦ 02 6683 4867 ♦

♦ Tuesday 12:30pm - 4:00pm ♦ Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm ♦

## We Want to Know What YOU Want from YOUR Community Centre!

By now, residents of Wardell and district should have received a copy of our survey which was recently distributed to all Post Office boxes in Wardell. Thank You to those members of the community who have already completed the survey. It has provided us with some valuable feedback.

We would like to encourage everyone who, as yet, has not had the opportunity to complete the survey, to do so and return it to us via the box provided at the Post Office, hand deliver it to Centre staff during opening hours or scan and email it to:

[communityfacilities@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communityfacilities@ballina.nsw.gov.au).

## Triple P Seminar

The Triple P parenting seminar, delivered by the Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early intervention Centre on Wednesday 9 November at the Centre, was a great success with several local parents enrolling to learn more about becoming more confident and competent parents.

For those of you who could not make it to the seminar, but continue to be interested, Jumbunna will be delivering future parenting workshops at the Wardell Community Centre in the New Year. Watch this space for further information.

## Regular Activities

Tuesday - **Alcoholics Anonymous** at 10:00am  
Wednesday - **Youth Arvo Sessions** 3:30pm – 6:00pm  
Thursday - **Knit 'n' Knat** 9:00am – 12:00 Noon  
- **Thursday Morning Stroll Group** at 9:30am  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month - **Book Club** at 10:00am

If you'd like to add your service or start a new group, please contact the Centre staff during opening hours, or contact Council's Community Facilities Coordinator, Jordan Robinson on telephone 0428 003 664 Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm.



## The Centre offers community members:

- Free internet
- Free photocopying
- Free fax
- A space to meet for groups or social get-togethers
- Use of kitchen including free tea and coffee
- Rooms for meetings and business use

## Ballina Shire Council Staff

A range of Council staff are available to assist you with any enquiries. Staff members include:

Centre Staff: Teresa Gahan and Elizabeth Law

**Social Planning Coordinator** Roberto Kenk handles youth issues, seniors issues, affordable housing, and community development (every 2nd Wednesday).

**Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer** Darrell Creighton can assist with matters between the Aboriginal community and Ballina Shire Council (on the alternate Wednesdays and Tuesday afternoons from 12:30pm).

The Wardell Community Centre would like to invite you to celebrate the year's end with a friendly Christmas Tea.

2:00pm, 21 December 2011 at the Community Centre.

Please bring a small plate of goodies to share.

## Tales From The Cane Derrick



Trevor Monti's yarn about his visits to Frank Meaney's Milk Bar in old Wardell reminded me that when I was a young boy in Wardell, everyone went to the movies on a Saturday night. But one Saturday I put the word out that my mate and I were going fishing across the ferry to East Wardell. I'd seen a tree full of mandarines in Frank Meaney's back yard and I wanted them. After dark when everyone was watching the Cisco Kid on the movies, instead of going fishing, my mate and I climbed Frank's back fence to raid his fruit tree. Holy dooley we were in for a shock! Frank's chooks were roosting in the mandarine tree and they clucked and squawked and cackled loud enough to raise the dead! We ran for our lives and never went back.

**Ken Threlfo**

## Sue's Kitchen



### Spinach Pie

2 (frozen) pastry sheets  
8 eggs  
500gm ricotta cheese  
2 pkts frozen spinach  
1 cup cream  
2 onions finely sliced

Prepare a 9" pie dish/round or square.

Cook spinach – strain through strainer to remove all liquid;

Beat eggs, add salt, pepper, onions, cream and ricotta + spinach

Cook for ½ hour on 160°C or until firm.  
Serve with green salad. *Delicious!*

The Deadline for 'Bugle' #16 is Friday 20 January 2012  
To download previous publications of the "Blackwall Bugle", Google 'Wardell Community Centre'



Australian  
Red Cross

**Branch President**  
**Ruth Partridge 6628 5751**  
**Meetings**  
**1st Wednesday of the month**  
**Wardell Memorial Hall**  
**9.30 a.m.**  
New members always welcome.

Wardell Red Cross is collecting memorabilia for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Red Cross in 2014.

Wanted are old photos, stories, recipes, craft patterns, etc., associated with the Red Cross, in particular the Wardell Branch of the Red Cross. Please send items to PO Box 68 Wardell or contact President Ruth Partridge 6628 5751

email address is [sproulefamly@bigpond.com](mailto:sproulefamly@bigpond.com)

## A Bus Ride to Town

For over twenty years Joan Wilcox has been coordinating community transport between Wardell and Ballina. Every Wednesday, rain or shine, a bus from the Tweed Byron & Ballina Community Transport Inc. leaves River Drive East Wardell at 10.00 am to take members of the community to Ballina. It departs Woolworths River Street car park at 1.00 pm for the return journey to Wardell.

A regular pick-up spot is outside the Wardell Post Office but, Joan says, "We will pick up anywhere and take anywhere." That means, for example, if you live in Pine Street and have an appointment in Tamar Street, you can be picked up at home and delivered to your chosen destination.



The bus is funded to assist people and their carers who are frail, aged, or have a disability, or those who have difficulty accessing public transport, or are disadvantaged by the lack of transport options in their area.

For more information, or to book a seat on the bus, telephone **Joan** on **6683 4018**

# Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation afternoon was held on the first Monday in November with proceeds going to The Ballina Ex-Servicemen's Home Auxiliary. Trudie Nash, the President of the Auxiliary for four years, attended with several other members. Funds raised by the Auxiliary go towards the provision of valuable assets for the home such as special wheel chairs.

The main prize for the afternoon was won by Ballina visitor Mollie Fitzhenry. The variety stall was stocked with produce as gardens have made a good recovery from the vicious hail storm which wiped everything out in late spring.

The final afternoon meeting of the year for the PLCO will be in December when the proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the Pimlico Hall. In January we take a break, then the monthly meetings will raise funds for The Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service, Crowley Village Nursing Home Ballina, St Andrews Nursing Home Ballina, Biala Special School Ballina, Ballina Hospital Auxiliary, Camp Quality at Lennox Head, Riding for the Disabled, Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service, the Ballina Region of the S.E.S. and the Ex Servicemen's Home Auxiliary.

For 51 years we have been raising funds for charity and our December meeting will be a special meeting with many prizes to thank patrons for their continued support over the years.  
**Betty Fernance.**



## Wardell Tennis Club

Pat Carney 6683 4360  
Waunita Lindsay  
6683 4141

The Wardell Tennis Club has made improvements to the courts recently. On Monday nights we have the normal competition with 16 players and it is pleasing to see a group of youngsters from Empire Vale using the courts under adult supervision each week.

During the 1970s the club had 100 members and it would be great if new people in the area or more juniors took advantage of the courts. The courts can be hired at the BP Service Station for a reasonable amount (much cheaper than other courts) so why not take advantage of what Wardell has to offer? Play tennis, have a BBQ and let the kids play in the park!

The Thursday Ladies Tennis is drawing to a close for the season and will resume in March.

### Phil's Philosophy.

"An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind." **Mohandas Gandhi**

**Wardell Service Station**  
for all your fuel, newspapers, take-away  
foods and convenience store items.

Cooking until 7.00 pm

Phillip and Ann Read. Telephone 6683 4252



## Picture Perfect

Recently, Empire Vale School participated in an art project organised by Ballina Fair, where students were asked to paint canvases for an exhibition within the shopping centre.

The school created two paintings; the first is titled "Helping Hands" which shows outlines of student hands from all classes. The hands are painted using different colours and patterns showing off our unique personalities and artistic abilities. The artwork was inspired by the concept of our school community. We create outstanding things when we all work together.

**By Nadine Janissen and Bethany Gillham  
Year 6 (Mrs Karen Rantissi)**

The other canvas is titled "Postcard from Empire Vale", which highlights four special qualities of the Empire Vale region. These include having the smallest post office in Australia, the Richmond River at sunset, sugar cane fields and surfing at Patches Beach. These are only four of the many



**Smart Artists. Empire Vale Senior Students Nadine, Carley, Kaylee and Mahli are busy applying the finishing touches to their artworks.**

great things that make Empire Vale a magic place to live. It feels good to have our artwork on display along with other schools within the Ballina Shire. We hope you take a minute to admire our art when you're next shopping in Ballina Fair.



# Are You Ready For a Fire?

Local girl Jadhya and her brother Christopher came with their parents to the Wardell Brigade open day. Andrew Monti was on hand to give some well supervised instruction in the finer arts of putting out a fire. But real fire is serious stuff. Are you prepared for the real thing?

Everyone should have a Bush Fire Survival Plan. If you don't, download a draft plan from <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> Learn how to protect your family and protect your life. Prepare a plan now and make sure all members of your household know what has to be done. Then, as soon as you are aware of a fire in your area, the plan can be put into action without hesitation. "He who hesitates is lost!"

Not all fires are bush fires. Sometimes they occur in the home or at work. You must have working fire alarms and a building evacuation plan which you should practice.



## In case of fire, dial

**Blackwall Historical Society Inc.**  
 % GPO Wardell, NSW 2477  
 ABN 75 608 492 789  
[blackwall\\_history@yahoo.com.au](mailto:blackwall_history@yahoo.com.au)

---

**Wardell and District War Memorial Hall**  
 The article on the front page of this issue of the Blackwall Bugle could not have been written without documentation kindly made available by the Blackwall Historical Society Inc.

On 25 April 2015 Australia will commemorate the centenary of  
 ANZAC Day



The Wardell Sporting and Recreation Club Ltd held their Annual General Meeting on 6 November and elected a new President and Board. The new President is Tony Mitchell, the Vice President is Jeff Hurst and the Treasurer is Greg Kingdom. Board members are Andrew Tickle, Kerry Storton, Warren Barnes, Russell Clifford, Ralph Kearney and Don Turner.

The Monster Toy Raffle and Children's Christmas Tree is on again this year on 10 December at 3.30pm. There will be lots of children's activities such as face painting and Santa will be giving out presents and sweets. Parents are requested to supply a small gift for Santa to hand out.

The monster toy raffles include many toys, bikes, hams, Christmas cakes and puddings. Christmas Carol singing at the club will be on again this year, a date and time will be announced shortly. The Australia Day Breakfast will be held in January 2012 and posters will be placed around Wardell as a reminder.

The social golf club members are enjoying fine weather and good conditions on the course. Thanks are due to the Wardell Trust for the upgrade of the greens. The Club Champions for this year were Al Sheather 'A grade gross', John Mathias 'A grade net', Gary Friend 'B grade gross', Roy Lamoon 'B grade net'. The golf club members play on Sunday mornings from 7.30 am and enjoy a sausage sizzle afterwards, new players are always welcome to join the club.

**Janice Wickenden**

The next meeting of the Wardell & District Progress Assn will be at the Wardell hall on 8 December at 7 pm.



**St Patrick's Church**

**Christmas Mass is to be celebrated at 5.30 pm on Saturday 24 December. There will be no Mass on the Sunday evening.**  
 Sister Larelle

*The Blackwall Bugle is produced by a voluntary community working group. Ballina Shire Council takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the content and acts only as copy editor and printing agent.*



# WARDELL PUBLIC SCHOOL

"Learning is Life"

Earlier this term the students from Wardell PS took a walk on the wild side. We were visited by the local Ballina Shire Council Rangers, two volunteers from W.I.R.E.S and Steve, the Reptile Man.

Students learnt a great deal from the two Rangers Joe and Gary, in particular some local issues, such as dogs on the beach. Students also discussed with the Rangers what to do if they come across an unknown dog, and how to protect themselves.

**Johanna Presgrave, Principal**



The two volunteers from W.I.R.E.S, Vicky and Kim dazzled students with a Powerpoint presentation highlighting all the animals that they have rescued in recent months. One of the survival stories was about the tawny frog mouth owl that was rescued from our very own playground. Students were amazed to learn that all W.I.R.E.S volunteers must have ongoing vaccinations when they rescue bats. The highlight of the day, as far as the students were concerned, was the visit from Steve the Reptile Man. Not only did he keep them engaged with some fascinating information; he brought some reptile friends with him. He showed the students bearded dragon lizards, blue tongue lizards and a black headed python that slithered over the children. He finished his session with an introduction to his crocodile 'Little Snap'.



## Happy Landing!

Contractors, on behalf of Ballina Shire Council, with the support and encouragement of the Wardell and District Progress Association and the backing of C Ward Councillors, have installed the latest addition to the beautification programme for the Wardell village.

The pontoon was funded by NSW Maritime (under the 2010/11 Better Boating Program) and Ballina Shire Council. The grant from NSW Maritime was \$28,530. The pontoon was designed and installed under contract by Prestige Pontoons.

The contract was managed on Council's behalf by NSW Public Works. The final cost of the project is estimated to be \$70,000.

The pontoon is already the busiest place in town on a hot summer's day - used mainly by youthful swimmers and fishers but more frequently now by visiting boats.

The Wardell Jetty was once the site of the Government Wharf where seagoing ships would tie up to unload the merchandise brought to the Richmond from Sydney long before road transport became fashionable.

One of the next projects, currently in the design stage, is the East Wardell Boat Ramp & Parking Upgrade.



**Photo: Jamie Doyle >**

# A Family Affair

## Lorna Dorey speaks with Mike Rushby

“My grandmother Martha Law was born on the Clarence River in 1869, the sixth child of fourteen children born to Barbara and Charles Law who had come to Australia from Scotland and England. My grandfather George Spencer was born in England and settled in New South Wales in 1883 where he became involved in the business of river trading boats on the Clarence. George and Martha had eleven children including my father Raymond Charles Spencer who was born at Grafton in 1893. He married Marianne (Dot) Unwin at Goodwood Island and in 1921 they moved to Empire Vale to a cane farm Ray had purchased from Josh Ellis. I was then fifteen months old.

“My dad was an interesting man. He was a Master in the Ballina Masonic Lodge, an executive of the Richmond River Cane Growers Association for many years, an Alderman on the Ballina Municipal Council and an expert in training draught horses. He built the first corrugated iron barracks for cane cutters and was the inventor of a winching system for transporting cane trucks. In 1951, he was killed in a car accident in Queensland. I was in hospital giving birth to my son Spencer the day they buried my father.

“My dad was very busy with meetings and things. My brother and I milked 15 cows twice a day and fed all the poddies. I would work my father’s team of horses. There were no tractors or anything and the horses were used to do what tractors do today. Our day started with early brekkie. We then went down and milked the cows and fed the calves before going to school. We walked over a kilometre to school and walked back in the evening. When we got home, my brother and I used to have to go and cut the wheat chaff and put the nosebags on the twenty working horses. One day I had three horses on the harrows and the young one in the middle started to play up a bit. The horses turned the harrows over. Luckily my uncle was working nearby and he came running over to help me put them right. I was a bit scared – I tell you! I was frightened in case the horses took off and injured themselves or me with the harrows.

“At school, Mr Phillips was the sole teacher. He would write a note for me: “Lorna, Mrs Phillips needs help today.” I would end up at the teacher’s house doing his wife’s housework or helping her kids with something like sewing. I was supposed to be in school but I was over at the teacher’s house doing housework.

“My mum and dad had eight children of whom I was the second born. Three generations of our family went to Empire Vale School but, at the age of 13, I left to do farm work and to help my mother with home duties because there were eight of us kids and three of my father’s younger brothers lived with us. I then started to do home duties work. There were many large families around whose mothers would be away sick or having babies. I would look after the management of the house and the family until the wife was back on her feet. My first family was that of the Methodist Minister, then the Ellises, McGuires, Johnstons and many others around Keith Hall and Empire Vale. My wages were between ten shillings and twelve and six a week. (\$1 -\$1.25)

“During the War my cousin John Spencer was killed in 1943. The Japs got him. He was twenty years of age. Everybody was saddened. There was Jack McKinnon, who was shot down in a ‘plane. There were several other boys I knew that didn’t come back from the war.

“When I was sixteen, I was the Postmistress at the Empire Vale Post Office. The Postmistress got sick and had to go away. I took her place and I also looked after her old Mum and her son, who was in his thirties, in the house. The Post Office was at the end of the house verandah which was next



Tim and Lorna Dorey at home 2011

to the school. At six o’clock in the morning I would meet the boat that was going to Lismore. I would throw the mailbag onboard and at three o’clock in the afternoon, when the boat came back, they would sound the ship’s horn as they came past Pimlico Island. I had to walk up the springboard onto the boat to get the incoming mail. Sometimes they just threw it to me.

“I met my future husband, Tim, at a dance in the Wardell Hall. When we married, my Dad gave him 30 acres at Boundary Creek. It was full of ticks and the sun never shone on it. My dad said to Tim that if he could clear the scrub and make a success of growing bananas, he would give him the block. All Tim had was a brush hook, an axe, a mattock and a pushbike. We grew bananas and prospered but the 1945 record flood entered our fibro home and damaged everything. That year we bought Ted Meaney’s farm at Walshs Lane and moved into the house where we have lived for 66 years. We have raised 10 children all of whom attended Empire Vale School.

“We later bought land at Teven and Newrybar and Tim and our six sons formed a company to work the farms together. Our family farming principles developed and we got the idea of growing macadamias. The Dorey family were, for 30 years, the largest sugar cane growing family in New South Wales. We have thirteen hundred acres of farmland at Newrybar where we were growing cane too but 22 years ago we planted our first macadamia plantation and have about 700 acres under maccas. We are a very close family and we stick together and work together. When we went out of sugar cane and went into macadamias, we kept 283 acres here but decided to run cattle on part of it and on the 150 acres that was sugar cane Warren, my grandson, grows soybeans and triticale, which is a hybrid of wheat and rye. For the last two years ‘Plantation Lorna’ has been nominated the best producing macadamia farm in Australia. There is now a cul-de-sac off the old Byron Bay Road that Ballina Shire Council has named ‘Lorna Place’. It all started here at Empire Vale and Boundary Creek on land that was once – in prehistoric times, the mouth of the Richmond River.

“There were 110 relatives and friends at our 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. We received telegrams of congratulations from Her Majesty The Queen, from the Governor General of Australia, from the Prime Minister and from many other dignitaries. The church has always been important in my life and I am a member of the Uniting Church at Wardell. Tim is now ninety-two but he still keeps busy. He loves his garden and grows lots of vegetables. We don’t go to clubs. We don’t drink or smoke. We remain very active. I like to keep the house looking good and I don’t go out without having first put the home right. I still drive my car and take a great interest in everything around me. I love my big family. We have all stayed together and helped one another. I love my church and now, in my nineties and living at home with my husband of over seventy years, I feel blessed.”