

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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Issue # 42 June 2016

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Wardell looking good!

The General Manager of Ballina Shire Council, Paul Hickey (seen on the right) and his team gave a presentation to a lively audience in the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall on the Council's Delivery Programme and Operational Plan for the years 2016/ 17 to 2019/20. The Mayor Cr David Wright attended as he almost always does. He said, "The priorities for the future are in a Connected Community, a Prosperous Economy, a Healthy Environment and engaged leadership with a need to protect our natural environment and recourses."

The concern of most people in the audience was for the provision of safe roads and footpaths. Paul Hickey agreed that this was a high priority and capital works consumed a large slice of the Shire budget. He highlighted that it was difficult to determine a fair way to allocate priorities for capital works across the Shire, with the current process relying heavily on technical assessments being made by

Council's engineering staff. Due to concerns expressed by people at the meeting about a lack of works for Wardell during the next two years. Paul gave a commitment to report to the June meeting of Council, where the Delivery Programme and Operational Plan are adopted, options to bring forward certain works for Wardell.



Pat Carney's continuing pressure upon Council to complete the 'boardwalk', construct public toilets for the disabled and provide footpaths where safe pedestrian traffic is needed, is much appreciated.

Wardell Brigade RFS

Often, in the simmering heat of summer, volunteers of the Wardell Brigade find themselves fighting severe bush fires for several days on end and a cool drink can make a difference to a firefighter's well being.

The new upgraded Pacific Highway will bring traffic relief to Wardell and much safer and more efficient driving conditions to highway users. The losers are the farmers. At Lumleys Lane, many successful cane growers lost the farms that had been in their families for several generations to make way for the development. Ken Threlfo was one of them. He was welcomed to a recent General Meeting of the Wardell Fire Brigade. He represented the Lumleys Lane Drainage Scheme on behalf of himself and members Harry Law, and Warren Lumley. With the closure of the Drainage Scheme, the members generously used their savings to purchase and donate a generator and portable fridge to the Wardell Brigade

Keeping cool on the Wardell RFS Fire truck!



Senior Deputy Captain Ron Rosolen, Captain Ray Collyer, Ken Threlfo and President Rex Farrell of the Wardell Brigade with the mobile refrigerator. In the background some of the younger firefighters just had to get in the picture!

Wardell Progress Association general meeting Wednesday 15 June at 7.00 pm.

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What can you do for your community?

The Wardell & District Progress Association Inc

The Annual General Meeting of the Wardell & District Progress Association Inc. was held at the Wardell hall on 20 April 2016.

The new committee is:

President - Pat Carney, Vice Presidents - John Stead and Paola Rickard, Secretary - Kerry Turpin, Treasurer - Ronda Thomas, Public Officer - Mike Rushby.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016

The Progress Association has once again had a busy year with our continuing involvement with the Wardell to Broadwater bypass. In relation to this we must thank Kerry and Paola for their input. They have kept us informed and have maintained correspondence with members of parliament. They have also prepared submissions on our behalf. This has been an onerous task when this time last year we thought we could see the light at the end of the tunnel. However our relationship with the RMS has allowed the community to be kept informed of the proceedings. A special thanks to Councillor Ben Smith for being at the forefront in representing us and helping us deal with some contentious issues.

Whilst much of our attention has been involved with the bypass, other things have been happening. The new toilets in the hall have been finished. The community must thank John and Wendy Stead for their time and effort in making sure the completed product was first class.

It is appropriate here to thank Mayor David Wright for gaining a \$15,000 grant from Ballina Shire Council for this project. Without this money the end result could not have been achieved.

During the year, Kerry Turpin our secretary prepared a comprehensive submission which went to council regarding the poor connectivity from one side of town to the other. Our C ward councillor, Paul Worth, moved a motion that resulted in tenders being called to build a boardwalk along the river adjacent to Bridge Street. Unfortunately, to keep a sizeable amount of funds available for this project, we had to sacrifice other projects - notably the footpaths in Carlisle Street and East Wardell. Let's hope the necessary funds can be found for this project as I believe it will be a great asset to the town and shire. Wardell's position on the banks of the Richmond River is an asset which should be used in our favour when council looks at ways of promoting the shire.

The Association has also this year been able to source funding for the Blackwall Bugle. This enables 400

Wardell & District
Progress Association Inc.
0414 899 247



hard copies of the bugle to be distributed throughout the village and surrounds. Our thanks go to Mike Rushby for the 'Bugle'.

The 'Lite Up The Hall' event went ahead again with great success. Once again it would not happen without Russell Krampe who has taken on this project with help from others in the community. Thanks Russell, we know we can rely on you again this Xmas!

Thanks to the Wardell Red Cross for their input into the town. The Progress Association was able to contribute \$1100 towards a defibrillator which is available to all in an emergency. It is located at the hall.

This Progress Association is lucky to have so many loyal and talented members. A very special thanks to Kerry. Her input into the town has been exceptional. I could not find a more dedicated secretary! We are also lucky to have the best Councillors to represent us. We know that David, Ben, Paul and Keith do their very best for Wardell.

Pat Carney



The Wardell Branch of the
Australian Red Cross

The Biggest Morning Tea is to be held at the Wardell hall on Tuesday 31 May at 10.00 am.

This is a chance to get together and raise money for a great cause - helping to fund Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support services. There will be a \$5 entry. You may bring a plate but the Red Cross will provide plenty of good tucker! See you there!

Pacific Complete is the project management team building the four-lane highway from Ballina to Woolgoolga for NSW Roads and Maritime Services. They make regular visits to Wardell to brief members of our community. They have an information website at:

www.rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B

and they welcome enquiries at:

Phone: 1800 778 900 (toll free), press 1

Email: W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au





Making
service
access
easier!

House with No Steps will be running a week-day transport service to provide customers in the district with improved access to HWNS programs of their interest and choice. The proposed route offers easy access via centralised pick-up and drop-off locations, including Wardell. There will be a \$10 daily fee for a one-way or return trip

Services 5 days a week (Monday – Friday) Morning and afternoon transport to and from programs at HWNS Alstonville. Transport to and from other services can be arranged. \$10 daily fee (one-way or return trip)

Contact us with any questions, suggestions or to find out how our transport service can work for you!

Tori Smith,
T 0404 854 396
Join us at
www.hwns.com.au

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4243

What amazing weather we have been having! We are only a few weeks away from winter and we are still getting temps in the high 20's, but alas that does also mean that the grass still needs to be mowed. The farmers have enjoyed a rare dry autumn to harvest their soy beans and to start getting ready for the beginning of the cane harvest season.

A meeting was recently held in the Pimlico Hall by Pacific Complete to bring local residents up-to-date with the Pacific Highway upgrade and to answer any questions. The most disappointing announcement was that the bridge linking Pimlico to West Ballina has been put onto the back-burner and will have to wait until the upgrade is completed and see if there is any money left over. To compensate the local residents, new planning has incorporated a north bound turn onto the highway from the Whytes Lane overpass.

The dates for the next Hoi days to be held at Pimlico Hall are:

- Monday June 6th;
- Monday July 4th; and
- Monday August 1st.

Come and join us for a friendly game of Hoi, a home-made afternoon tea, fun and friendship and you never know, you might just win a prize.

Jill Lock

On the next page - Richmond Street trees planted in 1938



Plan of Richmond Street, Wardell. Trees Planted 17 August , 1938

Sinclair Street Planting

Earlier, on 6 May 1935, to commemorate the silver jubilee of the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, 3 trees were planted in Sinclair Street :

1a - Red Cross - Mr WC Mitchell

2a - Literary Institute - Mrs E Bartlett

3a - Diggers - Mr HW Lumley

Dr DA Robins, President of Tintenbar Shire Council, said that Wardell was the first place in the Shire to plant an avenue of trees.

Planted by:

1. D Tait
2. A Pierce
3. M Watkins
4. Mrs Mitchell
5. Mrs Paul Lumley
6. Mrs Ford
7. W Leeson Esq.
8. Mrs TG Johnson
9. Mrs AW Payne
10. Mrs CT Lumley
11. E Whitford
12. T Wood
13. Mrs Law
14. PJ Meaney Esq.
15. JM Sadler
16. Mrs E Bartlett
17. Miss W McDonogh
18. RH Axford Esq.
19. W Robertson
20. Mrs W Esgate
21. Mrs PJ Meaney
22. Mr W Larkin
23. Mrs CT Lumley
24. Mrs W Payne
25. Mr H Esgate
26. H Bartlett Esq.
27. M Riordan Esq.

Trees planted and later removed for Pacific Highway / bridge.

28. Mrs HW Lumley
29. W Grayson Esq.
30. Miss FM Bartlett

Trees growing at Fire Station.

31. AJ Stonelake
32. J. Clifton Esq.

Anglican Church

Swamp Street

House. Tait's Corner

House

House

House

House

Post Office

Shop

Bakery

Axford's Corner

Sinclair Street

St Patrick's Church

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1

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3

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5

6

7

8

9



10

24

25

26

27

-  Original Trees
-  Trees that died or were removed.

Wardell & District War Memorial Hall

Cane Growers

Royal Hotel

Richmond Street

1a

2a

3a

The National Bank



Plan prepared by Blackwall Bugle - research by Harry Law.

Pacific Highway

Meerschaum Vale Hall - Show & Tell

One of the oldest community halls in Ballina Shire, Meerschaum Vale Hall, held a 'Show and Tell' on Sunday, April 10 as part of the Arts Northern Rivers project 'If These Halls Could Talk'.

Arts Northern Rivers commissioned filmmakers and creative story-tellers Poppy Walker and Sophie Hexter from HW Collective to work with the community to create a work inspired by Meerschaum Vale Hall and its surrounds.

Sawmiller Robert J Randle was born in Warwickshire England and came to the Richmond on 4 September 1877. He built a sawmill at the foot of the hill on the Wardell Alstonville road where it remained for nearly 30 years. Because of the deposits of Meerschaum clay that he found there, he named the locality 'Meerschaum Vale'.

The hall was built over a hundred years ago and Josephine Saunders wrote: "What would our grand old Meerschaum Vale Hall talk about? About the first settlers who walked from Meerschaum Vale to Casino and back to register their cedar covered land? The excitement generated when she was built by the Community over 100 years ago? How happy she is to be set in such a beautiful area of valleys and mountains?"

"The fabulous country dances held over the years? The history of the area? The sadness, but also the pride, behind the gold lettered Honour Rolls for the fallen? The



wonderful community effort to totally renovate her for her 100 year celebrations in 2006?

"The delicious aromas from her local Curry Nights? The great old photos showing on the three great calendars? Would she know all the answers on Trivia Nights? The sadness and sorrow when a community member passes on? The wakes held? The support given by the Community at these sad times? How she enjoys the High Teas for the 'Mothers Meeting other Mothers' group? And having Santa back again at Christmas to give joy to the children?"

Arts Northern Rivers set up stations for recording stories for ABC Open, for taking photographs of the Meerschaum Vale Community, and a memorabilia table. Arts Northern Rivers took care of

the artistic side while a jumping castle, a barbecue and a face painter looked after the younger members of the community.

The Meerschaum Vale community found it truly wonderful to have so many older people chatting about when they went to school at the Meerschaum Vale School, how they rode their horses to the old time dances at the Hall, played tennis beside the Hall and sold cattle at the saleyards nearby. Some of them were past Secretaries and it was lovely to hear their stories and have them filmed by Poppy and Sophie. Some of the memorabilia which showed details of the Armbrusters who were original settlers and donated the land for the Church and the Hall was absolutely fascinating. Everyone was grateful for those who shared their stories.



The Hall Committee: Meredith Wallace, Tracey Wheeler (Treasurer), Neil Wheeler (Vice-President), Liz Roberts, Helen Moore (Secretary), Mandy Keevers, George Speck (President), Josephine Saunders (Chair 'If These Halls Could Talk') Absent: Rosalie Kennedy.

A Potential Lifesaver

Lois Connell lives at Riverbend in Ballina with her husband. She has been involved with many charities, and has recently taken Wardell Red Cross, under her wing. She has been very generous to us, and we really love and appreciate this. She seems to relate to our small village having come from a small town herself. She loves to help and says it keeps her going despite her poor health. She kindly matched the money raised by the Progress Association to buy the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) recently installed at the Hall. **Ros Walsh**

The Wardell Group of the Australian Red Cross was formed over 100 years ago.

You too can be a member of one of the oldest Red Cross groups in Australia. Telephone 6683 4111



At the dedication ceremony of the AED - Left to right:- Jane Sproule, Gayle Baker, Kerry Gray, Pat Carney, Lois Connell, John Stead, Ros Walsh, Monica Vomiero, Fay Nixon.

AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators), when used within the first 3-5 minutes of a person suffering a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) can dramatically increase a victim's chance of survival from what is currently less than 5% to as much as 70% and higher with a defibrillator on the scene. AEDs were designed to be used by virtually anyone with little or no experience.

An AED will automatically analyse the heart rhythm of a pulse-less victim and, if the victim needs it, it will shock the victim's heart in an attempt to restore its rhythm to normal. AEDs will not shock patients who do not require a shock. The shock allows the nerve impulses a chance to resume their normal pattern, which, in turn, allows the heart to resume beating at its normal pace.

The Boy with the Victa mower!

Noel and Anne Wilson invited Mike Rushby to their home at Owens Lane East Wardell.

"I was born in Ballina on 7 May 1941," said Noel. "I was the second of four boys. My father was Andrew Wilson and my mum was Irene McAndrew from Riley's Hill. Dad's father was George Henry Wilson who had the Post Office property at Bagotville where my Mum and Dad built their new house across the road up on the next ridge. It was at that time that Les, my elder brother and I were born. At that stage Dad got the opportunity to share-farm a cane property at Back Channel. We all moved into that property for five years during which time I gained another two brothers Max and Kevin.

"My elder brother Les and I used to ride push-bikes into Wardell to go to school. There was no bitumen then - only gravel roads. There were other school kids further up and we used to ride together.

"The farm at Bagotville was sold and Dad's house was on it. He decided to shift it. He bought a block of land in Cedar Street which was the old blacksmith's shop. Dad pulled the house down board by board and numbered every board then built it back up board by board in Cedar Street. We shifted into the house about 1948. That house is still there.

"We kept on going to Wardell School and I would pick up odd little jobs and I did a paper run around Wardell six days a week for Frank Meaney who had the store and news-agency. Twice a week he used to get me to bring milk from Ford's dairy at Back Channel. I would bring it in on my bike. The milk was just in a loose-lidded billy can and he used it in the shop. Once a week I would bring in a jar of cream. It was a rough ride on a bike down a dirt road but I never spilt the milk!

"We all had pushbikes and knocked around together. We went everywhere on pushbikes. On my fifteenth birthday I went out on my own and rode to Maclean and back. I remember getting a puncture and fixing that by the edge of the road. All the kids around Wardell used to swim at Bingal Creek. Most of us learnt to swim there. We would swim for about an hour on the high tide. There would always be one of the mothers there with us.

"My eldest brother went to Lismore High and I followed on. I was able to do an agricultural course which wasn't available in Ballina. I would jump onto George Leeson's bus at twenty-five to eight every morning and would get home about five o'clock. I only did two years at high school and was fourteen and a half when I left. I went working with Dad. He had pineapples and bananas and was cutting and delivering firewood so I worked with him for twelve months. Then, like all young blokes around town I went working in the cane.

"I was able to buy a tractor and a front-end loader to load cane from behind the gang. I worked on Sneesby's

Lane. Mechanical loading was just starting. When the cane was cut, I loaded it onto cane trucks that ran on moveable tram lines to a cane derrick on the riverbank where it was transferred to barges to be towed by tugs up to the Broadwater Mill. My brother Les was hauling and Harry Law was off-siding for him. Trevor Monti was on the derrick. We did one season there and then Les and I went to the Clarence. I finished up off-siding with Les. Then, when I had picked up a bit of experience, I decided to go hauling on my own with my brother Kevin off-siding for me the first season. I picked up the job of hauling for Walshs Lane. Anne Dorey was one of the daughters of Walshs Lane farmer Tim Dorey and his wife Lorna."

Anne said, "I haven't moved far from home. I was born in Ballina in December 1943 and raised between Walshs Lane and Boundary Creek and I was the eldest girl and second child of a family of ten. We lived at Boundary Creek but we had a cyclone and a flood that went through

the house. In 1945, Dad bought a farm at Walshs Lane. When Noel and I got married in 1965 we built a new little home in Wardell on the corner of Carlisle and Bath Street. We later built extensions on the house. The house is still there. Bath Street stopped there and only continued past the old Post Office later. We lived there for nearly nineteen years and we raised two kids - a son Warren and a daughter Dawn. In the meantime we bought a couple of cane farms. We bought our first farm in Meaney's Lane off Sam Hamilton

in 1968 and the second farm we bought off Mrs Phillis Garrett in 1974. Since then we have bought two more cane farms in partnership with our son Warren.

Noel added, "Prior to that we had bought a property at Tatham where we grew soya beans and corn. But when the property came up next door we sold the one at Tatham and bought the one next door. We came to live on this farm in 1982 and we had our fiftieth wedding anniversary last year. Our son Warren is married and has two kids that both went to Wardell School. The youngest boy has just gone off to Ballina High School. Our daughter Dawn is married and lives at Lennox Head. She has two boys who went to Lennox Head School. I went to Wardell School and my kids went there and Warren's kids went there so we have had a long association with Wardell School since 1945.

"There was a big flood in 1954 which was the year I started High School. We got flooded out and the school bus couldn't work for about three weeks. Flood water took Marom Creek bridge out and George Leeson's bus didn't run.

"When we started planting we had the whole stalk planter. We later got more modern equipment such as the trash planter. Then later still we bought billet planting gear and just Warren and I do all the planting. We plant eighty to a hundred acres each year. When you are getting on a bit it makes you a bit tired at the end of the week! "I was Captain of the Wardell Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade from 1974 to 1983. On 18 Nov 1974 a meeting was held



in the Wardell Memorial Hall. Present at the meeting were 20 people. I was elected Captain of the Brigade, Ray Collyer the President, Anne the Secretary and Bill Lock the Deputy Captain. We applied to Council to get a fire truck and all of a sudden in 1977 they said we could have one. They built the truck down in Gosford and Anne and I went down to pick it up. We got just this side of Newcastle and the motor blew up on it. Brand new truck! We had to get it towed back to Newcastle and we came home without it. A few weeks later Ray Collyer and I went back down and drove it home in the one day.

"As soon as the soya bean harvest is finished, we have a caravan and we go off on holiday for three or four weeks. We try and go somewhere different every year. We've been what we call "Right around the Block". We've been down to South Australia, Cape York, the Simpson Desert and the Canning Stock Route, Tasmania, the Kimberly's and Broome. In 1985 they formed a four wheel drive club in Ballina. The places I've been and the experiences I have had with that club are unbelievable. I like the bush and I found myself with people who enjoyed doing the same things. We did a Cape York trip early in the piece and we took Mum and Dad with us. Later Anne and I did a trip with the club across the Simpson Desert - Ayers Rock - Alice Springs and in 2006 I did an extended trip through Alice Springs down to Kalgoorlie and up the Canning Stock Route for 1800 kilometres."

Anne said, "I don't like the four wheeled driving bit. Noel likes to take his four wheeled drive truck and throw his swag in the back and just go bush. It's all right for the enthusiast behind the wheel but I don't like just sitting there and bouncing around. But I've never stopped him from going when he wants to go. Just Noel and I went across the Stony Desert. We only saw one other vehicle all day. We had a satellite phone but we didn't have to use it. We've done the Birdsville Track, the Oodnadatta Track and right through to Coober Pedy - just the two of us with a little camper trailer.

"Noel has always been happy in the shed to weld and make his own implements and there are lots of implements over the river that he has invented and made. He was into building farm sheds at one time - I don't know how many of those he built. He can order the parts down to the last screw and put the sheds up on his own. He invented and built the first line trailer to shift the portable tramlines when they were hauling cane. As the cane was cut and hauled away, it was necessary to keep moving the tramlines to keep up with cane cutters."

Noel said, "The rails were very heavy and slippery and hard to hang on to. In the early morning frost your hands would stick to the rails. The other extreme was when the rails had been lying out in the hot sun. We had to cut up bits of hessian to protect our hands. The method I invented made a difficult task so much easier. We all worked very hard but I always gave credit to a cane cutter who worked flat out all day every day. The farmer paid the gang, the hauler and the derrick-man. We were separate contractors but we all got paid at the same time. The farmer would go every second Friday and bring his port full of money out all done up in envelopes with the right amount of cash. Out of my share, I would then have to pay my off-sider. One

year I had two off-siders when I was hauling Owens Lane and Meaney's Lane combined. I was driving cane loaders for a little while. The derrick men worked very hard in the early days because they had hand winches and with one bloke on each side they would wind the loads up with a hand winch and swing them out over the cane punts. But about the time I started in the cane they came up with these power winches. But pulling punts around and pushing cane trucks up and down the ramp was heavy enough work too. The hardest part was pushing the cane trucks across the Pacific Highway. There was plenty of colourful language used to get the trucks across through the traffic."

Anne said, "I went to school at Empire Vale because the bridge wasn't built until 1964 before we were married. The Flemming's bus used to go through from Evans Head and cross to Ballina on the Burns Point ferry. We used to catch the bus about five to eight and get off at Empire Vale. We would get home about five o'clock in the afternoon. After Empire Vale, I went to Ballina High still going the same way. For church and Sunday School we always went to Broadwater. We never had a lot to do with Wardell until the bridge was built."

"I always remember the ferry, said Noel. "I can still hear it running all night. You'd just get to sleep and you would hear it running again. When they were building the bridge we would hear the pile-drivers thumping all night. They couldn't stop or the piles would not get going again. So it was BANG! pause pause BANG! all night. I never worked on the bridge but much of the construction material was stacked on the road in front of our house."

Anne said, "Noel was self taught with his engineering skills. He can weld and use machine tools with no problem. Our son Warren started out at tech but left to take up cane harvesting. He is like his father - he can build anything. More than half the stuff in the farm shed was built by Noel. Noel gets bored doing nothing so he'll go and get a heap of steel and build something or change and improve something! Nothing much comes here without getting changed!"

"When I left high school, said Noel, "I had to give up my milk run and paper delivery. I was mowing lawns for Mayley with a push mower which didn't work that well. With the little pocket money I was earning I went and bought one of the first Victa mowers around. I used it to mow the lawn for Mayley - then someone else wanted their lawn mowed. When you talk about lawns then, you talk about lawns with grass knee high. Nobody wanted to cut grass like that then, but with a lawn mower around they wanted a lawn. So I was mowing lawns and later, with a tractor, I started contract slashing. I then bought a little dozer to haul the cane out in the wet and I began to pick up little jobs. When I was 21, I was snagging logs and putting in roads with my little dozer - I loved that!"

Anne said, "Even with the ups and downs on the land, we have had a good life together and hope to be around a bit longer!"

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