

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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A Bridge that Joins the Nation

Photos show (1) the Wardell bridge in the early morning sun, reflected in the Richmond River;(2) the bridge as it was two years ago all dressed up for an overhaul and (3) the bridge on opening day 10 April 1964.

On 10 April 1964, the Minister for Highways and Local Government Mr PD Hills, MLA opened the new Wardell Bridge. It changed the course of the Pacific Highway which had followed River Drive to South Ballina and across the Burns Point Ferry. The bridge was designed by Maunsel & Partners of England and Dayal Singh Constructions of Lismore. The steel lift span and supporting steel towers were supplied by Transfield Pty Ltd. of Sydney. The bridge was built under contract to the Department of Main Roads at a cost of \$830,186
Blackwall Historical Society Inc.



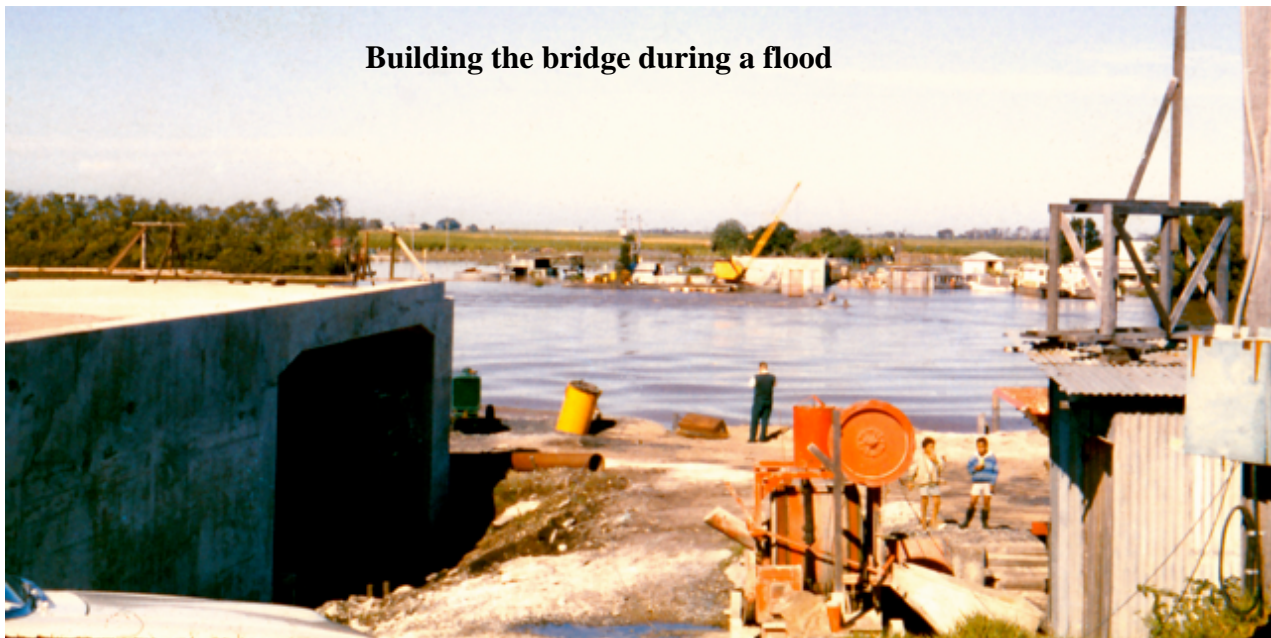
Happy Birthday! Wardell Bridge is 50 years old.



Top two photos by Blackwall Bugle. Opening day photo by Alan Spencer.
% Blackwall Historical Society Inc.

The late Ron Mullens, whose mother's house had to be moved to make way for the Bridge, took the photo on the left. It shows construction underway with, to the right, the old ferry and behind it Alec Fisher's house

Building the bridge during a flood



Erecting the lifting mechanism



The opening of the bridge on 10 April 1964



These photos courtesy of Blackwall Historical Society Inc.

The Wardell & District Progress Association Inc.



The Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan MP, with Sr Larelle Laverty, Rose Leeson and Sue Cechner-Simmonds at the February Wardell and District Progress Association meeting.

At the February General Meeting of the Wardell & District Progress Association, President Pat Carney welcomed the Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan MP, The Mayor of Ballina Shire, Councillor David Wright, Councillor Paul Worth and staff of Ballina Shire Council. He then invited Kevin Hogan to address the meeting.

Kevin outlined several events within Ballina Shire that effect Wardell including progress on the building of a new rescue tower in Ballina, the provision of a new rescue boat that was built in the Northern Rivers and 4.5 million dollars worth of improvements to the Ballina District Hospital. He then went on to talk about progress on the construction of the new Pacific highway.

The new highway is not too far away and is likely to bring considerable financial benefit to Wardell during the construction phase. Kevin said that it was inevitable that an engineering event of this magnitude, that would so improve

the safety and efficiency of road transport, would impact upon farms, flora and fauna.

Kevin, like all of his constituents, is concerned for the welfare of koalas and other wild life in the area. Plans are in hand to fence off the construction site well in advance of the arrival of heavy machinery. This will enable wildlife to become acquainted with the new regional and local-scale movement corridors and existing and potential koala habitats prior to the commencement of construction.

The meeting, by applause, appreciated Kevin's visit. We hope he will be back soon.

The next meeting of the Progress Association will be the AGM on Wednesday 16 April at 7.00 pm. It will be followed by light refreshments to farewell David and Lorraine Judge who are leaving Wardell after many years of dedicated service to the community.



Wardell Sporting Recreation Club

Telephone 6683 4437

We have had a busy time at the Wardell Sporting and Recreation club recently. On 14 February we had a special Valentine's Day dinner with wine and roses available for purchase with the very delicious set menu of two courses. We had the choice of entrée and main or main and desert.

The Footy Tipping Competition is underway and quite a few members of the club and the general community are involved. The competition will be concluded at the end of September.

The Seafood Night was attended by members of the club and the broader community. It went well and a good time was had by all.

We have expanded our regular menu for Friday nights and still have the specials board and desert. We are open daily during the week from about 3 pm and on Fridays meals are available from 6 pm. We are also available for hire. For further information, please telephone or visit the club.

Kerry Storton

The Blackwall Historical Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Blackwall Historical Society Inc. which was held at the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall on Thursday 6 March 2014, determined that the Society would surrender its incorporation and apply to join the Wardell and District Progress Association Inc. as a subcommittee.

The Biggest Morning Tea

Knit n' Knat



Every Thursday
9 am - 12 noon

Wardell & District War Memorial Hall
Knit for charity and enjoy the
companionship of others.



The Cancer Council Australia provides up-to-date information about all aspects of cancer to cancer patients and the general community - more than 100,000 Australians contact the Cancer Council for advice each year, through the Cancer Council Helpline.

Guest speakers will be cancer survivors Marie Taylor of Empire Vale and Sharon Grant of Wardell.

Thursday 15 May
from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon.
Wardell & District War Memorial Hall
Sponsored by the Wardell Knit & Knat.

A gold coin donation for entry, lucky door prize, raffle tickets.

A plate for morning tea would be appreciated.

Your support will raise vital funds for cancer research, prevention and support services.

A great time for friends to enjoy tea.

Rose Leeson. Telephone 6683 4277

Keep this date free!!!

Wardell Village Fête

On Saturday 31 May

The annual fête, which brings visitors from far and wide, will be held in the grounds of St Patrick's Church Wardell. All the usual stalls will be there.

All items donated should be in a saleable and safe condition because they will be sold to raise money for the pastoral care and assistance of needy members of our community. Any items remaining unsold at the end of the day will be donated to reputable charities.

Heavy items, or large quantities, can be collected from your property. Enquiries should be directed to:

Selena Carney - telephone 6683 4360



Australian
Red Cross

Branch President Ruth Partridge.

**Meetings 1st Wednesday of the
month at 5.30 p.m.**

Wardell on the River Hotel

New members always welcome.

Telephone 6628 5751



Proud Aussie, Sharon Grant, a speaker at The Biggest Morning Tea, congratulates Sr Larelle on her Australia Day award - 2014.

Richmond River Cane Growers' Association Ltd

Sweet fodder donation

NSW Farmers and the NSW Sugar industry have worked together to provide a dose of sweet drought relief to desperate livestock producers on the Northern Tablelands. Almost 600 tonnes of sugar cane billets were delivered to farmers in Walcha, Armidale, Uralla, Guyra, Wialda and Inverell following a donation from Far North Coast cane growers Tom and Marty Walsh.

The fourth and fifth generation cane growers from Wardell offered the fodder to drought affected farmers after their crop was impacted by fire.

The quick thinking farmers from Wardell knew the cane residues had to be moved as soon as possible to hold its livestock feed value and they knew the plight of fellow farmers in drought ravaged northern NSW.

"We saw an opportunity to give this cane to someone in need and knew that we had to get it off the paddock quickly and get it to farmers in need," Tom Walsh said.

"We knew it would be decent cattle feed because the neighbour's cattle often lean over the fence to get a taste of it." Richmond River Cane Growers Association and NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative, in collaboration with NSW Farmers Members from Walcha to Wialda, eagerly began coordinating delivery of the fodder to those most in need.

Walcha farmer and NSW Farmers Executive Councillor Sonia O'Keefe said 19 loads of the cane billets reached about 20 farmers across the Northern Tablelands region.



Tom Walsh (Cane Farmer), Paul Coveny (NSW Sugar Milling Co-op) and Marty Walsh (Cane Farmer)

"It has been extremely well received by all the farmers," Ms O'Keefe said and added, "it was truly one of the most rewarding things I have been involved in. It was a great job to be giving a hand to people that desperately needed it."

There was also much activity at the Walsh's farm to get the fodder off to where it was needed. Cane farmers, the Richmond River Cane Growers' Association, Woodburn Cane Harvesting Co-operative and the NSW Sugar Milling Cooperative all lent a hand to get the billets off the paddock and into trucks for transport to the Tablelands.

Ms O'Keefe said, "It truly is a good news story in a time of drought across much of NSW and the Walsh family and the North Coast sugar industry should be applauded for their efforts in assisting fellow farmers in need."

Richmond River Cane Growers' Association Ltd.



Waiting for a bus!

How often have we driven along Carlisle Street and witnessed the discomfort of students, all dressed in their best school uniforms, huddling under broken umbrellas against the driving wind and rain? That was at the start of their day.

Well, there are smiles everywhere now because, following lobbying by the Wardell & District Progress Association and the positive interest shown by C Ward Councillors, Ballina Shire Council has erected a first class new bus shelter. It has hardly rained since the shelter was built - but it will!

The shelter is neat and efficient and it blends in well with the local streetscape. It is up to us now to look after it.

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

A happy crowd of supporters attended the Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation's first afternoon of autumn. John from the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter was in attendance. Their afternoon had been held in February when no one from the appeal was available. John gave a very interesting account of the activities of the rescue helicopter which is now in its thirty-second year.

The March afternoon meeting will benefit Crowley Care Services. Members of their Auxiliary Service attended including their president Maureen Boyce. They have recently purchased a bed lifter, armchairs for the lounge room and benches and seats located around the grounds. Maureen thanked the PLCO for their continued support over many years.

Many prizes were won throughout the afternoon. The raffle prize was won by Betty Fernance who has been a PLCO member for nearly 54 years. This was her first

raffle win in all that time! The variety stall was well stocked and did a brisk trade - thanks to all who contributed.

Olive Creighton was congratulated for receiving a certificate of appreciation from Ballina Shire Council for her services to charity. Olive was Secretary to the PLCO for over 40 years and did a splendid job.

The April afternoon will have been held to benefit the St Andrew's Nursing Home. Our meetings are always on the first Monday of the month with a bus running from Ballina picking up people from several points. Details can be obtained from the above telephone number. Please bring a friend for an enjoyable meeting and a mouth-watering afternoon tea provided by our excellent cooks.

Betty Fernance

The Pimlico Drought

Pimlico received only 24 ml of rain in February compared to 350 ml for the same time last year. Household tanks are running low and the water carrier is having a busy time.

My lovely vegie and flower gardens are having a hard time but they are well mulched and ready to go.



Blackwall Historical Society

Research room in Wardell & District War Memorial Hall,
Richmond Street, Wardell.

President: Margaret Kennedy. Telephone 6686 0027

Enquiries: Rose. Telephone 6683 4277

<blackwall_history@yahoo.com.au>



The Wardell Tennis Club needs new members to play social tennis on a Monday night. Play starts at 6.30 pm and ends by 9.00 pm. Regardless of age or experience, come along and have a go. You will be made most welcome.

The East Wardell Boat Ramp

After considerable delay, due to the breeding habits of a pair of magnificent Ospreys that nest on the top of the pole that you see in the centre of the photo, Ballina Shire Council has almost completed the new boat ramp and fishing facility. It has been worth the wait.

Users, please study boat-ramp etiquette, park well clear of the ramp and be patient with newcomers.

Phil's Philosophy.

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. Confucius

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



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was expecting our first grandchild. I made my mind up that I was going to survive long enough to see him into this world.

"Paul, my youngest son, was twenty years old and doing his last year of a mathematics degree at university. He went in and had surgery in the February as he was lining up for the end of the year examinations. I said to Don Tindal the surgeon, "Do we have to do this now?" He replied. "Your son wants it and will manage it. He has made his mind up!"

"I can still hear Paul, who I eventually lost in 2011 saying to me, 'You know Mum, whatever you do, don't blame yourself for this! This is how life is.' He died at the age of 51. As many of his mates said at the eulogy of his funeral service, although he had had that extensive surgery in 1980, he still came out with three high distinctions in mathematics. He went overseas and worked overseas. He had much surgery but he kept on bouncing back. That was the hardest part. I kept on thinking he was always going to come through. In 2010 he had surgery at North Shore Private and he rang me in January saying, "Book my room Mum, I'll be up there for a month with you in February." At the end of January he rang me and sounded tired on the phone. He said he had been doing a bit around the house. He rang a few days later and said the doctors had sent him for a blood test which showed he had liver cancer. With treatment he might have lasted two months. Without treatment he would last a month. He lasted a month.

"Even our granddaughter went quickly. She rang me from Brisbane Hospital. I asked her what she was doing there and she said, "They think I've got leukemia!" She said that she went to have blood tests done and they rang her the next morning to tell her to be into the Brisbane Women's Hospital in the morning without fail! She had bone transplants and chemotherapy but nothing worked. She asked them straight out for their prognosis. They said there was nothing they could do further but they would give her treatment. She asked, "What for?" Within a short time, she was gone. She was only nineteen.

"My son Brian in Ipswich has had a lot of problems too. We nearly lost him. We think we know everything.

But by being with a support group I am learning new things all the time. Just little simple things that can be picked up from other people, whether it be looking after yourself or doing something in the house a different way. I have trouble with the lower part of my back and I go to have acupuncture every Monday. People say, "Why do you want to have needles stuck into your back?" And I say, "Hey, that's what keeps me going!" I know that as I approach Monday, that's what I need. I'm not in pain but I need all the help I can get. I will be 83 in May. Let's face it; you're only as old as you feel!

"People ask me what do I do out here. I have my granddaughter Amy staying with me and she is good company. But I can always find something to do. People that can get out and walk down the street without any assistance don't know just how fortunate they are! If they can go out and get into the surf, or swim, or play tenpin bowling, or ride a bike – all things that I have done. That's why I like getting out there into the yard and mowing my three acres. I say that I would sooner be 'off my rocker' than sitting on my lounge in Ballina. I remember my young son saying to me on the phone not long before he passed away, "What have you been doing Mum?" and I said that I had been into the nursing home to see one of the ladies. He asked, "Do you think you will ever go into a nursing home Mum?" I told him that I didn't think so although I know that the homes are there for a reason. Whilst ever I can survive at Empire Vale, I will do it. I couldn't stand being cooped up in a small room just sitting there twiddling my thumbs. Here at home, if ever I want to get up and do something, I do it whether it is twelve o'clock at night or six o'clock in the morning it doesn't matter.

"Within our group, none of us can eat the same type of food because for some it might be too high fibre, or there are some fruits that some of us must not eat. I can't swim, but I can dog paddle. For the last three years I have been going over with Marion and her husband Roy to Moree. We had three weeks over there last year and I hope to get over there again this year. If anyone has aches and pains, they ought to get over to that place. I strongly recommend the Gwydir Caravan Park – it's great!

"Wendy lived at Lennox Head. She has since gone to God. I used to go and see her every morning before we

got the help in the organizations that knew how to change appliances. She wrote a letter of support to Bill Tyrrell the Stomal Therapy Nurse at Lismore Base Hospital. I had no idea that I had been proposed for a Volunteer of the Year award. I went to the Lismore ceremony and only got to the Ballina presentation at the last minute. I was met by the Mayor Councillor Phil Silver. The letter informing me that I had received an award arrived in my mail the day after the ceremony. Lucky I was there!

"Bill Tyrrell has done much work in gaining recognition within the public for the needs of those who depend upon appliances. This award makes the public more aware of the special needs of our group. A lot of people come into the area and they telephone me and say that they have got my name off the internet.

"There are many people out there who are unable to come to terms with wearing an appliance and the good news is that advances in modern treatment of cancer mean that gastrologists have been able to make great advances in surgical procedure that makes the use of appliances less common. But my appliance does not bother me. It is part of my body now. When we first came up here, I used to ride around the house on my pushbike. I go to the surf and I go to the hot water pools at Moree. Nowadays, because the appliances are so much better, they last longer and stay in place better.

"I lost my Mother when I was eighteen. I lost my elder sister and I lost a younger brother when he was only forty-eight. My husband was wonderful to help me in any way shape or form but I couldn't ask him to do anything with my appliance – that was a 'no no.' He didn't want to know about it. He would take me anywhere but he had a fear that he wouldn't change the appliance properly.

"I would encourage all people to be aware of their own health, to take care of their own health and to act immediately if their body is telling them something. Go and get it checked. If you have a change in your bowel motions, go and get it checked out! Whilst you have life, enjoy it, make the most of it and look after yourself. When you've got to do it, you've got to do it. And you can! Be positive!"

Marie Taylor

Marie Jane Taylor

Northern Rivers Region Volunteer of the Year 2007

Marie Taylor was diagnosed with cancer in 1978 and had a serious operation in 1982. Her experience of living with her condition has paid dividends for fellow ostomy sufferers and she has been devoted to helping and counselling others. She has been President of the North Coast Ostomy Group, and counsels nurses on proper care. She coordinates and chairs regular support meetings and raises funds to

be used in the cancer care "look good feel good" program at Lismore Base Hospital.

Lismore Base Hospital Stomal Therapy Nurse, Bill Tyrrell, says: "Marie Taylor has given great support and care to all that ask her for help and advice."

©Ballina
Information Blog



Marie Taylor

speaks with Mike Rushby at her home at Empire Vale.

"Our eldest son was Jim Taylor who was the policeman at the Wardell Police Station and we used to come up here to visit him. Then in 1983, when my husband was thinking of retiring from Thirroul where we lived, we looked around here because we liked the area. One night at the pub my husband Fred met a cane farmer who said he had a place for sale. We bought the place at Empire Vale, tidied it up and rented it out until we moved up here in 1987.

"Later, when we started to get on a bit, people would ask us what we would do if we found ourselves on our own. Fred said, "I'll be the first one to go!" "How do you know that?" he would be asked. "I just know it!" he would say.

"Then one Saturday afternoon Fred was out mowing lawns and on the Sunday night I was making funeral arrangements. It was very sudden. He was gone in an hour and a half. My eldest son then asked if I was going to sell up and move into Ballina. He asked me what I had in mind and he said he would help me. I said I had no intentions of moving because I liked it out here. It's another world when you come over on the ferry. It's country! I was born in Manilla near Tamworth and I've always lived in the country. I get someone in to do the whipper snipping and the spraying. But I do the lawns myself. I would sooner ride around on the mower than do housework.

"I'm President of the North Coast Ostomy Group. It is a support group for people that wear appliances or bags and they either have ileostomy, or colostomy or a bladder with cancer or diseased bowels. It can be different forms based on what they have. I took this position on because I am a survivor. When I first had surgery back in 1976, there was very little support around and the appliances available were as different from modern appliances as an FJ Holden from a BMW. There is a lot more help around today. When I first had it there were about four thousand sufferers Australia wide but now there about thirty-five thousand. I come from a family history of bowel cancer. There were six of us children and I am the last survivor. Of the six of us, three of us had what they called a familial polyposis or FAP. That is the forming of polyps that can turn cancerous. A lot of people have them and don't know they've got them. We lost our mother at 60 and then I lost an elder sister. It was only when we lost that sister that we found out it was in the genes. So I went and had a biopsy done in June 1976 and the GP said that everything was fine. Then on 26 October 1976 I was on the operating table.

"Another reason why I like to help people is that I grew up with cancer because I was young. I was 45 when I had my operation. When you are older you don't have the same thinking power. Your brain is not as agile and even your fingers, with age, develop arthritis. So the changing of appliances by men and by women becomes a more difficult task. Another thing is I have lost two children – a son and a daughter – to

cancer. Three of my children have their mother's gene. Six months before I lost my youngest son in 2011, I lost my youngest granddaughter in 2010.

"When I got into the support group, I met such a lovely lot of people. Together we built the support group up. I would go into the rehab and talk to people who had just had major surgery. You see men and women in their eighties who have gone through this horrific surgery. When I had surgery they kept me in hospital for a month. You couldn't imagine that being done today! I thought that if I could just help one person get out of trouble I would be doing something worthwhile. So people ring me and I go and help them as I can. I am the President of the North Coast Ostomy Group, which counsels nurses on proper care. I coordinate and chair regular support meetings and raise funds to be used in the cancer care "look good feel good" program at Lismore Base Hospital.

"In between that I started doing bus trips. Now I just do it to Twin Towns every two months and any money we make we put back into the community. Last year we gave over two thousand dollars to worthy causes.

"When I found out I had cancer, my daughter-in-law, who is Jim's wife,

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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.