

# THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

Wardell Community Centre. 9 Sinclair Street, Wardell NSW 2477

Issue # 16 February 2012

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

Telephone 02 6683 4561

## Wardell Cemetery is alive and well

Ballina Shire Council acts as a cemetery authority in accordance with NSW Public Health Regulations. One of the cemeteries under its care and control is the Wardell Cemetery which, it records on its web-site, "is a bush cemetery, being in close proximity to scrubland and with many unmarked graves."

Some think that cemeteries are just places for dead people, but the Wardell Cemetery is a living, vibrant place, filled with birds and flowers and the memories of many of the people who died whilst creating the environment in which we now live and work. When you go there, take a camera and a note book. Tread softly and take your time.



Here five priests lie side by side. Where else in the world would you find such harmony? In the North-east corner there are many unmarked graves where the bodies of early pioneers were brought by boat up Bingle Creek to be buried in what later became dedicated ground. You will find many familiar names in the cemetery - names of those who forged a living here when they only had their mates and their families for support. Here you will find the graves of migrants and adventurers and little babies lost forever. Here too you will find the graves of the descendants of the first Aboriginal settlers of this area. The cemetery is a place to make peace with yourself.

Clarence Thomas Lumley was a successful butcher, employing many workers, with a slaughter house at Bingal Creek and a butchery near where the Wardell Fire Station now stands. He had meat delivered by a horse-drawn cart around the district and by boat up and down the river from Burns Point to Broadwater. He was a Councillor with Tintenbar Shire. On 24 January 1916 he enlisted in the 9th Infantry Battalion and was killed in action at the Battle of Menin Road in Belgium on 20 September 1917. The Germans were defeated, but the Australians suffered 5,013 casualties in that battle. So intense was the artillery barrage that the bodies of many of those who were killed were never able to be recovered for burial. CT Lumley has no known grave. In the Wardell cemetery is the grave of Louisa May Lumley and upon her grave is a plaque in memory of her 33 year old husband. She lived on for many years in the house her husband had built for her - Mayle House.



*To find out more about the cemetery, go to the Ballina Shire Council website and click on "Community and Lifestyle"*





## Wardell Bridge

### our landmark returning to life

There has been an absorbing artistic and engineering event taking place before our very eyes - the refurbishing of the Wardell Bridge. The main concern for Roads and Maritime Services has been for the safety of users of the bridge and the workers on the project. There has been some disruption to traffic flow and the public are to be commended for accepting a few inconveniences.

Records maintained by Ron Mullens show that the bridge was built for the Department of Main Roads by the Lismore firm Dayal Singh Constructions at a cost of \$830,000. It was opened on 10 April 1964 by the Minister for Highways and Local Government, Mr Pat Hills.

Asked for a progress report on the Wardell Bridge, a Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) spokesperson said:

“Work on Wardell Bridge is progressing well despite delays due to the ongoing wet weather. Completion is now scheduled for March 2012, weather permitting.

“Painting has been completed under the deck of the lift span and the upper levels of both towers.

“Scaffolding has been erected to fully cover the towers to protect against the weather and contain dust produced when the old paint is blasted.

“Painting has started on the traffic barrier along the bridge with work on the steel on the lower level of the tower to start in January 2012.

“Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has allocated \$4.5 million for the restoration of the bridge.”

*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.*

## Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

Pimlico Ladies Charitable organisation held a Christmas party to thank patrons for supporting the association for over fifty one years. The main prizes were a hamper won by Jill Lock and another by Caroline Whitney of Ballina. A lovely painting donated by Elaine Heynatz was won by a delighted Margaret Paul of Ballina.

A special framed certificate of merit was presented to Olive Creighton together with a voucher. Olive did a wonderful job as secretary for almost 40 years. She will be replaced as secretary by Elaine Coleman who has returned to us after nursing her mother for many years. Gwenda Skinner was re-elected President for the 10<sup>th</sup> year at our AGM and Jill Lock our treasurer for the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

The first meeting of 2012 will be held at Pimlico Hall on the first Monday in February to benefit the Rescue Helicopter Service. **Betty Fernance.**



## Cabbage Tree Island

### Public School

Established 1893

## Moving on

Ebonie has completed her primary school studies and is about to embark on the next phase of her journey through life by enrolling at Ballina High School. She attended pre-school here, then left for a while and returned in year three. She loves the school environment at Cabbage Tree Island where she excels in sport - particularly basketball. She has developed poise and grace and will be a good ambassador for our school. We are sure she is destined for a bright future and we all wish her well.



Acting Principal **Shanene Phillips**



# Wardell Community Centre

9 Sinclair Street Wardell 02 6683 4867

Tuesday 12.30pm - 4.00pm - Wednesday & Thursday 9.00am - 4.00pm



## New Year, New Developments

The Wardell Community Centre staff sincerely hope that you were able to enjoy a relaxing break and a fabulous start to the New Year.

We anticipate that 2012 will bring some exciting new developments to the Community Centre. Already the centre has seen the beginnings of a new playgroup emerge which is due to formally start in February. We would like to encourage all the mums, dads, grandparents and carers to come along and make some new friends. The playgroup is an opportunity for your children to socialise and play with other children.

Playgroup starts on Monday 6 February and will run every Monday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Please bring a healthy snack for your children for morning tea.

If Monday does not suit you and you are interested in attending playgroup, please give us a call and advise us. If there is enough demand playgroup may operate on an additional day.



## What's On?

**Playgroup** - Monday 9:30am - 11:30am  
(from 6 February)

**Alcoholic Anonymous** - Tuesday 10:00am

**Youth Sessions** - Wednesday 3:30pm - 6:00pm  
(during school terms)

**Knit 'n' Khat** - Thursday 9:00am - 12:00 Noon

**Morning Stroll Group** - Thursday 9:30am

## The Centre also offers:

- Free internet, photocopying and fax facilities.
- Rooms for meetings and business use.
- Rooms for group or social get-togethers.
- Use of kitchen facilities including free tea and coffee.

## Ballina Shire Council Staff

A range of Council staff are available to assist you with any enquiries in their area of expertise. Staff available at the centre include:

**Centre Staff** Jordan Robinson, Teresa Gahan and Elizabeth Law are happy to have a cuppa and a chat about general use of the community facilities in the Ballina Shire. The centre staff can provide information and support regarding activities and programs at Council's facilities.

**Social Planner** Roberto Kenk assists with youth matters, seniors matters, community development and more every 2nd Wednesday.

**Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer** Darrell Creighton can assist with matters involving the Aboriginal community and Ballina Shire Council. Darrell is available to meet by appointment.



## Pimlico Flag Flying High

Most of us who live around here know of Betty Fernance and her collection of international flags that she has been flying from the pole outside her Pimlico home for the last thirty years. Her hobby brings her many surprises including a recent event, about which she spoke with the 'Bugle'.

"One day recently a young woman came to my door. I could see she was very distressed with tears rolling down her cheeks. I asked her what was the matter and she introduced herself and said that her stepfather, who was only fifty six, had dropped dead suddenly the day before. She said that every time they used to pass my place they loved to look at my flag. Then she asked, 'I'm wondering if you have a Manly-Warringah flag and, if you have, I would ask that you fly it at half mast on the day of my stepfather's funeral because he was a really devoted supporter of the Manly club?'"

"I told her I didn't have a Manly flag but that I would fly the Australian National Flag at half mast for the funeral if she wished. She said, 'Oh I really wanted the Manly flag and I'll try and get one from somewhere.'" Well a couple of days later, a nice young man came to the door. He said he was the deceased man's nephew and had just arrived from Sydney with a Manly flag. I had a look at it and said that I was very sorry but I couldn't fly it from my flag pole because it was a big flag but fitted to a stick! He went away and returned a couple of hours later. He had altered the flag so that it could now be flown from the mast.

"I told him that I would fly the flag at half mast on the day of the funeral - which was the next day. That night, when I went to take my flag down, the unbelievable happened, the pulley and everything broke and fell to the ground. I was absolutely shocked because that gear had been up and down the pole twice a day for years and years. Why did it have to happen at that particular time? I was really concerned. I tried to ring the people up to see if they would come down and fix it, but didn't know their name or where they lived. So I thought I would go out and look for them. I got into my car and drove up the road and called into a house to see if the people there knew where the grieving family lived.

"The only person at the house was a really nice man in a wheel chair. I introduced myself and he said that his name was Doug. He knew where the people I was looking for lived but said that they were out. I told him that I was desperate to find them and walked up to their house looking for them. When I returned to my car, Doug was still sitting there in his wheel chair. I told him that I didn't know what I was going to do as the bereaved family was depending on me. He asked me if he could come down to my house and have a look at the problem.

"He drove down to my house and pulled his wheel chair out of his car and had it all together in a flash and got himself over to the flagpole. Well look, he and I struggled for half an hour and it was starting to get dark. Doug said that with all the rain the pole was stuck and wouldn't come out. But he just wouldn't give up. At last he said, 'It's starting to move!' With great difficulty and with him in a wheel chair and me not very strong, we got the pole free and down on the ground. He had a look at it and said, 'I'll come back later and fix it. But, he added, you and I couldn't possibly lift that pole and put it back up.'" You've no idea how heavy it was!



Betty Fernance at home draped in the Bosnia and Herzegovina flag with the Cambodian flag flying from the mast.

"I thought to myself 'I wonder if he will come back?'" But he came back at nine o'clock that night and I didn't even know he was there - I must have been watching television. When I got up next morning it was all fixed. Doug had arranged for two young blokes from up the road - Wayne and Craig - to come down and put the flag-pole back up. So I was able to fly the Manly-Warringah flag. I was so delighted.

"I got a beautiful letter from the sister of the man who had died. She wrote to me a lovely letter from Sydney. She just addressed it 'to Betty, Pimlico' and I got it. She told me how grateful they were. It was unbelievable, you know, and that man Doug - he would not give up!"







**Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club Ltd**

**Telephone 6683 4437**

There were two major events at the Wardell Sporting Recreation Club in December. The first was the traditional Kids Christmas Party, which started with children's activities inside and games being played outside. About 5:30pm Santa arrived in a big red fire truck with sirens and lights going – all very exciting! After the presents and lollies had been given out, opened, played with and eaten, the fun moved inside for the traditional raffle of Christmas presents. Many thanks to Julie Foster and her teams for organising this very successful event.

The following week we had a carols by candlelight event where tickets were given away for the lucky door prizes. There were raffle tickets and a goodies table and the kids – young and old – enjoyed the traditional candles, flashing windmills, and glowing swords. Fortunately no injuries

occurred due to sword fights! Carol singing went on for about 45 minutes to an hour and fun was had by all, either by participating or just listening to the leaders' singing. This was another community night and we hope to repeat it in 2012. Many thanks go to Deb Mephram and her teams for creating this event.

We hope that whatever you did over the Christmas, New Year and holiday period was fruitful and positive and may 2012 be just as good. **Kerry Storton**



The Wardell Uniting Church will feature in the next issue of the Blackwall Bugle.

### **Wardell Uniting Church**

Built in 1904-5, The Wardell Methodist Church, now known as the Uniting Church, has served the parishioners of this area for well over 100 years. The Church is to be closed. The final service will be held on Sunday 19 February 2012 at 2 pm.

**Marie Harrison**  
telephone 6683 4967

## **Back room boys.**

Do we ever give a second thought to the consequences of our actions when we run the shower, empty the kitchen sink or flush the toilet? Of course not! We are a civilised society and we take for granted that all our waste products will be disposed of with the wave of a magic wand. Sewage can be treated, near to where it is created, in a septic system. In the more heavily populated area of Wardell, a modern network of pipes and pumping stations transports the waste material to the Wardell Reclaimed Water Facility where it is processed and the treated water reused on the recreation ground and the turf farm.

Recently, in a downpour of rain on a cold day, the 'Bugle' spotted a team of Ballina Shire Council operators servicing the sewage pumping station in Bridge Drive Wardell. Dean and Leathon were the cheerful attendants. They insisted that I stay more than ten metres away from their working area for safety reasons, although I had a strong suspicion that they were shy of publicity. Who wants a close-up photo to tell the world he works with sewage?

These blokes need a medal. Without them our society would crumble. The 'Blackwall Bugle' salutes them.



# Sue's Kitchen

## BOCCONCINI, TOMATO & BASIL SALAD



### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil.  
 1½ tablespoons balsamic vinegar.  
 1 garlic clove, crushed.  
 1 teaspoon caster sugar.  
 600g ripe tomatoes cut into thin wedges.  
 220g baby bocconcini, drained, torn in half.  
 1 cup fresh basil leaves, large leaves torn.  
 (I like to use red onion & lettuce leaves with above).

### Method:

1. Place the oil, vinegar, garlic and sugar in a small screw top jar. Season with salt and pepper. Shake until well combined.
2. Arrange the tomato and bocconcini in a shallow serving dish. Top with the basil. Drizzle over the dressing to serve.

### Notes:

Prepare the dressing 1 day ahead.  
 Arrange salad just before serving.

## CT Lumley

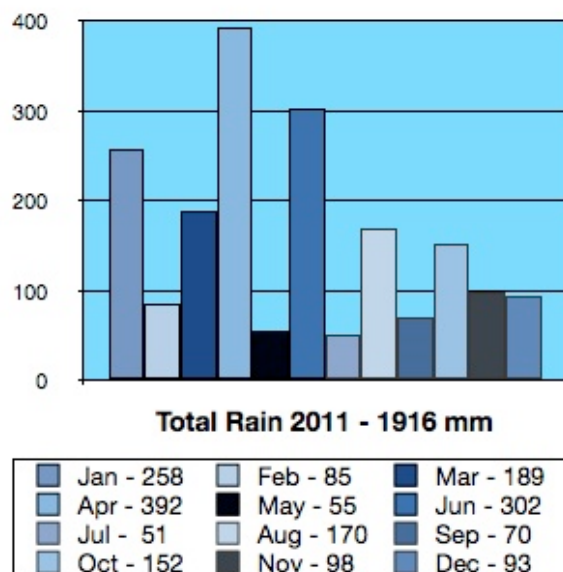
Those of you with sharp eyes will have seen that the well-worn plaque on the grave of Louisa May Lumley states that her husband was killed at Polygon Wood on 20 September 1917. However that battle did not commence until 5.30 am on 26 September. Clarence Thomas Lumley was killed in the Battle of Menin Road six days earlier - just one of the mysteries of war.



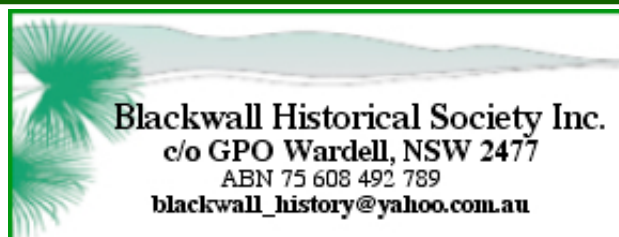
Painting "Battle of Menin Road" by H. Septimus Power. 1917  
 copyright © Australian War Memorial

The next meeting of the Wardell & District Progress Assn will be at the Wardell Hall on 16 February at 7 pm.

### Rainfall Wardell 2011. (unofficial)



Total Rain 2011 - 1916 mm



Anyone interested in sharing their family history with the Blackwall Historical Society is invited to attend the society's office at the Wardell Memorial Hall from 1 to 3pm on the second Thursday of each month. Telephone 02 6683 4277

Next month, Sue Wardrobe at the Post Office will be putting together a display of memorabilia with regard to postal services within the Blackwall area since European settlement first began. If any of you have items that would be of interest, if you have memories of experience with the Post Office, or if you were employed by the telephone exchange, please contact Sue on telephone 6683 4101

Blackwall Historical Society Inc will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 2 February 2012, at 7pm in the Diggers Room of the Wardell and District War Memorial Hall. Business includes the election of executive office bearers and committee members. The new constitution updating the society's mission statement will be presented for approval. Nomination forms for executive / committee will be available online at [blackwall\\_history@yahoo.com.au](mailto:blackwall_history@yahoo.com.au) or by contacting Secretary Margaret on 66 860027. Membership fees are due to be paid at the meeting. The AGM will be followed by a general meeting with items on the agenda such as Heritage Festival and History Festival activities for 2012, Anzac Day centenary seeking to have the Wardell and District War Memorial Hall registered as a War Memorial.

**Rose Leeson** Publicity Officer.



## Tales From the Cane Derrick (the rough end of the pineapple).

In the 1940s, two brothers Harold and Evan Williams leased a few acres of some really heavy scrub at Bagotville near where the entrance to Desi Aitkin's farm is now located. It was sandy ground with mahogany and blackbutt but they cleared it and planted pineapples and tended the crop in honour of their brother Arthur. They wanted something that would provide income and interest for their brother when he came home from World War II. He was serving with the Royal Australian Air Force as a radio operator and turret gunner in a Liberator bomber with 159 Squadron RAF based on Digri Airbase in India. The day the war in Europe ended, Evan came tearing up to the Bagotville School in his old ute, dragging a rattling empty kerosene can along behind him. He happily told the school that the war had ended and his brother was coming home. That was the first news the school received that the war was over. The teacher declared the day a holiday and let the pupils go home.

Then Harold and Evan Williams learnt that Warrant Officer Arthur Williams' plane had been shot down over Burma on 1 February 1945 and he had been killed. He would never be coming home. The pineapple crop was advanced and about to be harvested when the bloke who owned the block told Harold and Evan that he had sold the block, including the crop, to a third party and, as they had not actually signed a lease, they had no entitlement to the pineapples. Arthur's body was never found but he is commemorated in the Australian War Memorial and the Singapore Memorial. Harold and Evan lost not only their brother Arthur, but also the fruits of their labour.



The Blackwall Bugle has researched this story and will make all references available to the Blackwall Historical Society. A summary can be seen at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stam\\_Woodbridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stam_Woodbridge)  
**ARTHUR ROLAND WILLIAMS** Born: 29th December 1910. Died: 1st February 1945 age: 34 years. Son of Eli and Maude Williams Bagotville, New South Wales, Australia. RAAF Warrant Officer. Wireless Operator Air Gunner. Joined the RAAF in 1942. Trained under the Empire Air Training Scheme in Canada. Graduated Sergeant as Air Gunner and Wireless Operator. Posted to Harwell UK 1943. Posted to India in April 1944. On the 1st February 1945 whilst returning home from a special signals mission over Burma, the Liberator came under fire from a Japanese night fighter. The crew bailed out over the Bay of Bengal. Of the 9 crew, 3, including Arthur Williams, were never found and were presumed dead. The pilot and navigator were imprisoned but survived. 4 crew members were captured by the Japanese and were tortured and beheaded. One of the crew, Stanley James Woodbridge, was awarded the George Cross posthumously in recognition of his courage and devotion to duty.

**In Memory of  
Warrant Officer ARTHUR ROLAND WILLIAMS**

**421484, Royal Australian Air Force  
who died age 34  
on 31 January 1945**

**Son of Eli and Maude Victoria Williams, of Bagotville, Richmond River, New South Wales, Australia.  
Remembered with honour  
SINGAPORE MEMORIAL**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

# Memories of my childhood

Ron Mullens speaks with Mike Rushby

"My mother came to Wardell from Oakvale and my father from a farm at Oakliegh. Dad came here to work for Bagot's Sawmill. They bought a house on the bank of the Richmond near the Wardell Ferry. The house had to be moved when the bridge was built. I was born in Wardell in 1941 and my Dad died when I was only six years old.

"I went to school here at Wardell and later to High School at Ballina. Wardell was a good place to live. Kids reckon they've got nothing here today. When I was ten years old, the days were never long enough. I spent them swimming, fishing, playing cricket and tennis, and riding bikes. We played 'slippo' where we'd give one bloke a minute's start on a bike and then we'd hunt him down. One night I went down the hill here towards the Post Office and, as I turned the corner, I hit a horse in the guts. The bike went under him between his front and back legs and I hit the horse square in the middle. He jumped all over the bike but he missed me! There was no delinquency then. The worst thing we ever did was to turn the cemetery sign around so that it pointed towards Wardell!

"Wardell was a busy community and there was always something going on like flower shows or a dance on the Friday night before the Melbourne Cup. When the sweep was drawn, you couldn't get into the hall. There was a dance here at least every second Friday night for the Church of England, the Red Cross or the Catholic Church. The girls of the district used to throw birthday parties in the Hall. When I was a kid a bloke used to come around with a big truck with film gear and show pictures in the Hall. Gary Tudenham and I would get up early on a Saturday morning after a ball and we'd go home with an armful of grog that had been hidden in the banana plantation that grew between the hall and the pub. Blokes would hide their grog there and then get too drunk to remember where they had put it! We used to go and get it. Mum never had to buy sherry to make trifles!

"Old Joe Maloney lived up where the mushroom farm is. He used to come into town every day for a drink. Then he'd lie under one of the big fig trees and fall asleep. He had a big walrus moustache but one day when he was in a deep sleep someone shaved half of it off!

"I would come home from school sometimes, and Mum wouldn't have anything for tea. So I would just go out and catch a couple of fish. You could do that then – just grab a rod and go out for half an hour and come back with three nice brim. We learnt to swim in Bingle Creek.

"I played senior cricket from when I was sixteen until I was twenty-eight. Then a bloke I worked for in Lismore persuaded me to play in Lismore. I played three seasons first grade up there and then went to play for Goonellabah. Then I played for Norths for two seasons until I switched my sporting interests to golf.

"There was a lot of shipping on the river during my early days. There were boats that stopped and delivered goods and travellers to all the towns along the way. Bagot's mill was very busy with logs and sawn timber. Then there were the cane punts and tugs that supplied Broadwater Mill and were always running during the season. Riley's Hill Dock was in full operation. Boats would come up from Sydney to be serviced at Riley's Hill. York Marine used to build good boats at Swan Bay.

"There was a cream boat that called at each little wharf along the river to pick up cream cans. One boat did the Lismore arm of the river, and another the Casino arm. They would pick up cream on the way up stream in the morning and then drop off bread and groceries on the way home. The cream carriers did a lot for us in the old days. Harry Seed was the best of the cream carriers. He would do anything to help. He did the Meerschaum Vale and Bagotville run into Wardell and then on to Lismore.



**The steamship Bonalbo at the Wardell wharf.**

"I had a very happy childhood here in Wardell even though I didn't have a father. My Mum was the most amazing woman I have ever known. She raised three of us and none of us ever ended up in jail. We had bread and dripping for tea sometimes because there was nothing else to eat. That's probably why I started fishing because if you caught a fish, at least you had something for the family to eat!

"After leaving school and before I joined the National Bank I worked for Attawells store or Edwards store as it was known then. Then I derricked sugar cane on Floods Lane, joined the bank and got shifted to Walcha. I now live in Ballina but I call Wardell home.

"I was reared in the house two doors away from the Hall – the one with the big fence and the gate. Mum lived in our house until eight days before she died. I've still got a couple of flower pot things that Mum had. They stood on a table made of silky oak from the farm. In my bedroom there is a big jug and a bowl that was used as a face washing bowl just like in the old western movies. There are two vases to go with it (they might have been tooth brush holders) and a po. They were all made in London. There is a number on each piece. They used to use the po to make Christmas puddings in."