

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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The Start of a Great Adventure

Local sons go off to war. This year marks the centenary of World War 1

Private John Tudor Griffiths, seen here in the back row left, was from Teven visiting his friends at Purdies Lane East Wardell - Private Herbert James Purdie and Private Athol Roy Purdie. In the front row, left to right; Miss Doris Miller, Miss Florrie Purdie and Miss Muriel Roberts. John Griffiths, enlisted in the 9th Battalion and was killed in action at Pozières, France, on 25 July 1916.

His friend Private Herbert James Purdie, a farmer from East Wardell, also served on the Western Front. A month later he too was killed in action near Pozières on 22 August 1916. He was blown away by an artillery barrage and has no known

grave. His name is recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. He was 21 years old.

Private Athol Roy Purdie served with the Field Artillery Brigade in France. Of the three young men, he was the only one to return from the war.

The Australian official historian [Charles Bean](#) said that the Pozières ridge "Is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth." The Australians suffered heavy losses; they lost as many men in the Battle for Pozières in six weeks as they did in the whole Gallipoli Campaign.

<http://www.awmlondon.gov.au/battles/pozieres>

Heroes of World War 1

With the centenary of the First World War, it is timely to remember those members of our community who gave their lives for our freedom.

Here are two of the many.



Percy Hampden Lumley.

He was the son of Henry William and Elizabeth Lumley of Lumleys Lane Wardell. He enlisted in the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment which was operating in Palestine against the Turkish army. He died of wounds on 30 March 1918.

An informant, *Lance Corporal Cornell*, is quoted by the Australian War Memorial as saying, "Percy Lumley was of medium height aged about 22 years and very popular. He was hit on the 27th March on the first day of the Amman stunt. We were attacking the Turks east of the River Jordan when he was hit in the head by a machine gun bullet. I took him on a camel to the dressing station. I was with him most of the evening till about midnight, then I had to return to the Regiment. He was bandaged by the doctor and seemed to be doing well - was talking and seemed quite cheerful. He died a few days later. Some time after, I saw his grave by the old Jerusalem-Jericho road. It had a cross with his name."

It is a long way from Lumleys Lane to the Jerusalem-Jericho Road. But we will remember him!

Lest we forget!

Private Leonard C Beggs MM

Leonard Beggs of Meerschaum Vale served with the 41st Australian Infantry Battalion. *Captain Louis Carl Roth MC* wrote in a letter home from Gallipoli... "Not forgetting Beggs, a terrier of a chap, will do anything. Put up entanglements under fire, work on sandbags at night, scout around for provisions on the beach, my word he's the one to find the illicit canteens... he is a real scout and will do anything to oblige us."

After combat service in Gallipoli, Leonard Beggs went on to Belgium and was awarded The Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry. He died of wounds and gas on 4 October 1917 at the age of 23 and is buried at Poperinghe, Flanders, Belgium.



BETTY HART'S WAR MEMORIES

Betty, in her story "Richmond River Girl," wrote of the loss she felt when two of her brothers, Roy and William Bartlett, left Wardell to go to war.

"When the 1st War broke out my beautiful brothers enlisted. Roy was, I think, in 26 Battalion, No 10, so he was one of the first with his mates to leave Australia. They were the most wonderful looking boys. Roy was in the evacuation of Gallipoli and then went right through France for the next four years until war ceased.

"My brother Roy said, when they, the troops, were being taken off Gallipoli, the ship that was trying to rescue them, had a big hole in it and the poor troops were rushing like mad to get away. So many fell in the water and were drowned. The ship got away and landed them but it had to travel sideways. I really wondered how any of them were saved. And then they were taken to France to fight. A most terrible march took place in the desert when many dropped out and could not go on with it. It certainly took its toll. Foot soldiers they called them. They had frost bite and were very sick and were lucky to survive.

"His other brother tried to join him in France but was not allowed by the army standards. He was missing for years and mother always thought he would turn up. Roy went all over England to

hospitals thinking he would find him and years after mother got his disc returned, found by French farmers whilst ploughing the fields. Now he is buried there in Cerre Road, No 2 cemetery France 19th / 22 Aug (Plot XXVII Row A. Grave No.6 aged 29 years.) My brother's No was 2558 12th Infantry Battalion AIF. There are many Australians buried there.

"Roy was over six feet tall and so handsome with a beautiful complexion and violet blue eyes and long black lashes which I envied. Later in Ballina, he became engaged to a young nurse, Nell Hooper, and they left for Sydney where he went into business with his brother-in-law and had a tragic end. He was in his twenties and caught the Black Flu and died. The Doctors couldn't understand it. He was such a wonderful healthy young man. It nearly killed our mother, as she was with him and we were all broken hearted.

I was next to him, two years or so younger."

(It transpired that Roy Bartlett died not of the "Black Flu" but of the effects of having been gassed during his four years on the battle front. So Betty lost both her soldier brothers to the war.)

Photos and text on pages 1 & 2 are in the Public Domain and were made available by the Australian War Museum.

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier William Reuben Bartlett, Private
2. Unit and Number (if known) CWO. 2558. 12th Battalion
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—
Town (if any) Wardell District Richmond River State New South Wales
4. What was his Birthplace Wardell, Richmond River, New South Wales
5. Date of Death 19/22/18/1916
6. Place where Killed or Wounded Moquet, France, (reported missing)

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

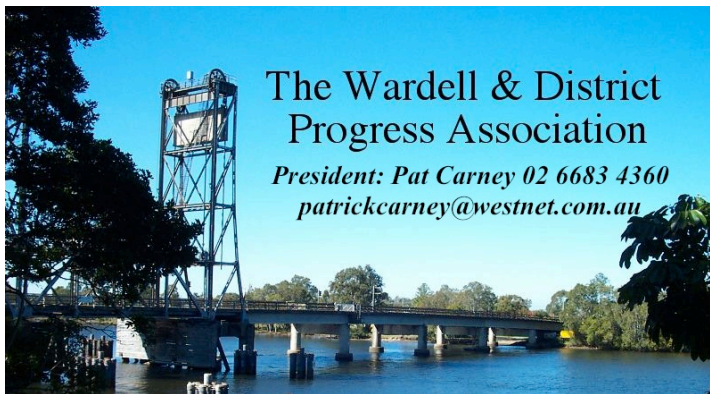
1. What was his Calling Butcher
2. Age at time of Death 29 years
3. What was his School Public School Wardell Richmond River N.S.W.
4. What was his other Training _____
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia _____
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) CWO
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment— _____

8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)—Yes / Brother Private Roy Bartlett who died 55 Sept 1918 after serving four years on active service, through gas.

9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
Name Mr. Elizabeth Louisa Bushell
Relationship to Soldier Mother
Address Roy Astor Brunswick Street New Farm Brisbane

10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
Name _____
Address _____

NOTE—This Folder is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.



The Wardell & District Progress Association

President: Pat Carney 02 6683 4360
patrickcarney@westnet.com.au

The meeting of the Wardell & District Progress Association on 17 December started with President Pat Carney thanking Secretary, Kerry Turpin, and Treasurer Russell Krampe for their hard work and support throughout the year.

Concern was raised, by some of the visitors to the meeting, about the movement of gravel trucks from the Bagotville quarries to the highway and the need of a pavement with secure curb and guttering along Carlisle Street - but no formal motion was presented.

Bob Higgins, the General Manager of the Pacific Highway development project informed the Progress Association that he wished to hold a public meeting in the Wardell hall on 8 January 2015 at 2.00 pm to address any public worries about the route of the highway.

Pat and Selena conducted a successful river boat trip on the Richmond Princess and they appreciated the help with bookings given by Sue Wardrobe at the Wardell Post Office.

The meeting agreed that the hall needs a good portable PA system.

John Stead, the President of the Hall Committee, said that he had been contacted by the Hon Don Page MP who advised him that his application for grants to upgrade the hall, including the modernisation of the toilets, had been successful. Work should commence in the New Year now that the Progress Association has arranged satisfactory Public Liability Insurance.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members enjoyed some light pre-Christmas refreshment at the Royal Hotel.

Pimlico News

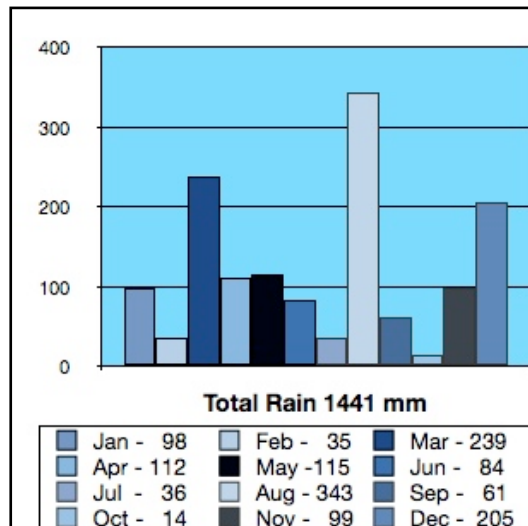
Telephone 6683 4384

The Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation had a most successful Christmas party with many visitors from Alstonville, Evans Head and places far afield. Several hampers were made up through the generosity of our members and we were happy for them to be won by our visitors - some of whom have attended our functions over the past 55 years.

We are a happy crew and enjoy our get-togethers on the first Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Monday 2 February in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter appeal. We look forward to seeing you there. The usual bus service will be available from Ballina.

Betty Fernance

Wardell



Unofficial Rainfall 2014



Wardell Sporting Recreation Club

Our annual Australia Day Gala event and all-day BBQ was held with a golf competition and assorted games for all ages.

We had a successful 2014 and look forward to seeing you at the Club during 2015. We anticipate having Seafood Nights, the Melbourne Calcutta and raffle and regular Sunday morning competitions among other events.

We have been doing interesting things in the kitchen this year and have a new, interesting and rotating menu. Visit on a Friday night, support your local Club and check us out. The Club is the only venue in Wardell with a commercial kitchen available for events, so please consider us for your next function. Phone 6683 4437 for more information.

Kerry Storton



Mayley House Poinciana at Christmas

The story on page 7 is entitled 'A Man for all Seasons'. The Blackwall Bugle acknowledges that author Robert Bolt in 1954 wrote a play by the same title about Thomas More the 16th-century Chancellor of England.

Light up the Hall for Christmas 2014

The switching on of the Christmas lights was a most popular occasion once again. We can thank Russell Krampe, Jeremy Johnston and LJ Signs for erecting the lights, Kevin O'Brien and Barry Cremin for cooking up the BBQ and the Wardell Parents and Citizens team for the canteen. Sue

Wardrobe donated a cricket set and Pat Carney organised the raffles. Apart from that, everyone in the community joined in the festive spirit and we were all spellbound by the K-6 Students of Wardell Public School who entertained us. Deb Crealy is seen below briefing her students.



K-6 students from Wardell PS were invited to perform some Christmas Carols at this year's 'Light Up Wardell' held at the Community Hall. Students were asked to come dressed in their festive attire. For performing on the stage in front of a packed house, they were rewarded with a free ice-block.

Five songs were performed in total. "Deck the Shed", a modern day Aussie take on "Deck the Halls" was sung first. The song had plenty of props including two rather large pairs of men's jocks in addition to wattle, decorations and an axe. The actions and lyrics generated the laughs and the tongue in cheek nods from the audience that the students were hoping for.

"Away in a Manger", a traditional carol, was sung and signed by the students using traditional Australian Sign Language. "Santa Give Me a Dinosaur" was a new song learned by the students to perform on the night as well as "Happy Christmas to You" which involved lots of movement and even a conga train. "Six White Boomers" was also sung as it is a much loved and treasured Aussie carol.

A huge thank you to WPS teacher Mrs Yvonne Johnston, for teaching the students the songs, and for

organising the rehearsals prior to the performance. We hope all who attended could hear us and enjoyed our presentation. We look forward to being invited to perform again next year! Congratulations and thank you to all the students on a wonderful job. You lived up to the school motto – Learning is Life! **Deb Crealy**



There is always work to be done. Here Paul Spooner, the Labor candidate for Ballina, is seen at the 'Light up the Hall' discussing the approved Wardell bypass with Paola and Jeff Rickard and Philippa Wright who are concerned East Wardell residents. Pat Carney kept the peace.



Wardell Public School presentation 2014

There were too many stars and there was too much enthusiasm in the Wardell Hall, on the night of the presentation, for everyone to be included in this 'Bugle'. You had to be there to appreciate the energy of the students and acknowledge the dedication of the teachers and staff who had prepared them for the public demonstration of their skills.

The players had so much confidence and poise and they so obviously enjoyed themselves, it took but a few minutes for the parents and visitors to become enchanted by the presentation.

Following a 'Welcome to Country' by Chantelle Waters, Principal David Owen outlined the school's achievements for the year.



The presentation began with awards for excellence in all grades and to those who were outstanding in their dedication to sport, to citizenship and for their interest in the school library. Russell Krampe and the Parents and Citizens team were congratulated for raising extra funds to support the students during the year. David thanked the staff, students, parents and friends for their support of the Wardell Public School. Above left, Liam Shephard and above right Alana Staff, enthralled the audience with their confidence and their acting ability.

Crystal Morgan, below, was rewarded for her



enthusiastic support of the school library. "Those students graduating to high school can justifiably be pleased with their achievements," David said. "I wish them all a happy and successful future."

The Pacific Highway Upgrade.

On Thursday 8 January 2015 the Wardell & District Progress Association held a meeting in the Wardell Memorial Hall to enable Mr Bob Higgins, the General Manager Roads for the area from Newcastle to the Queensland border, to explain the situation with regard to future planning and construction of the Pacific Highway from Woodburn to Ballina.

About 120 local residents filled all available seating in the hall and, despite the poor acoustics, the audience listened eagerly to his presentation. Bob said that following extensive studies in 2004 into engineering risks, flood water movements, deep soil analysis, and agricultural activity, the western route was selected as the preferred route. This route has the preliminary approval of the State and Federal Governments. An alternative route to the east of Wardell would cost \$300 million more in construction costs and would devastate well established cane farms.

However, he said, the Federal Minister had given him until July this year to come up with a viable plan for the protection of endangered wild animals.

The highway had to be completed by the end of the year 2019 and already comprehensive studies are being carried out for the safe passageway of koalas and other wild animals above and below the proposed route of the highway. New koala habitat is being planned and is about to be planted. Extensive work in this field has already been researched and put into practice on other completed sections of the highway.

Bob pointed out that the western route was chosen specifically because of the abundant presence of good construction material along the route of the highway. If the road had to be built to the east of Wardell, all the construction material would have to be trucked in from elsewhere.

Questions from the public included requests for the speed limit of the old highway from Wardell to Woodburn to be reduced to 80 kph. The density of traffic is now so high it is very dangerous for people residing beside the highway to turn off onto their properties. There were also concerns that farmers in the area between Whytes Lane and the twin bridges would not be able to move machinery from their property on one side of the highway to their property on the other side.

Bob Higgins' presentation was well received.

A Man for all Seasons

Rex Kemp speaks with Mike Rushby

"At the start of the first lesson on the first day that I was at Chatswood Christian Brothers' school, Brother Greeley lined us all up and said, "I want you to sing 'Do Ray Me Far Sol La Te Do' when I come to you." When he came to me I said, "I can't sing, Sir!" He just went whack over my ear hole and knocked me to the ground. From that day on, I thought, "Right! It's on!" So I was a dreadful student and I rebelled quite seriously. I used to wag school. It was nothing for me to line up at lunchtime and get six on the hand from one brother and then get another six from another brother with a strap. I never told my father – the less he knew the better! My sister went to a good convent school and she did all right.

"I was born in Sydney on the North Shore at a place called Willoughby in 1936 and I was named Rex Barry Kemp. I lived there until I was nineteen. My father was Edward John Leslie Kemp and my mother was Elsie Florence. She was never in good health all her life. Dad was a baker's oven builder, which is a rare profession. He built and repaired brick ovens. He came from a family of bricklayers. We've got a photo somewhere of the ironware used in the building of the baker's oven in Buckingham Palace built by 'Kemp and Son - Oven Builders'. When I was twelve years old, I had a brother twelve years older than me. He had been engaged to this twenty year old girl and wanted to get married. But her father wouldn't allow them to marry until she was twenty-one. One day the father caught the two young lovers in bed. He went and got his shotgun and shot my brother dead. That is something that has really stuck in my mind.

"My sister lives on the Gold Coast now. She is three years younger than me and we grew up on the North Shore. In World War 1, my paternal grandfather, Sapper John Edward Kemp - Service number 9554, was with the secretive Tunnelling Company that featured in the film 'Beneath Hill 60'. Their task had been to tunnel under 'No Man's Land', and blow up the enemy from below. He came home from the war but died, before I was born, from shell shock and the effects of the War.

<http://www.beneathhill60.com.au/background.htm>

"My maternal grandfather died when I was about twelve. He was a lovely old bloke and a fine musician. He used to play the violin, the trumpet, cornet and piano. He was very talented. I can't even whistle. That's why I told the brother I couldn't sing. Mum died when I was nineteen. I was in the Nashos at the time doing my military training and they woke me up about 4.00 am one morning and told me my Mother was dying. I went home in a taxi, but she was gone by the time I got home. That was difficult for me and for my sister because I was a fairly immature nineteen years old and Val was only sixteen.

"With the Nashos I did my compulsory National Service training and then a year of service in a military unit. I stuck it out for six years and got to the rank of Staff Sergeant. I was with The Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers attached to the 7 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. There were about 25 to 30 of us in that Light Aid Detachment. We were all tradesmen and apprentice tradesmen in that unit.

"After that I went bush for a couple of years – just knocking around in the scrub in South-West Queensland

and North-West New South Wales. After my mother died, I didn't get along with Dad who had a new girlfriend and she was spiteful to me and my sister. I was 22 years old when I went walkabout. I shot kangaroos for a living and I sold the skins. I did a bit of sucker bashing and thistle chipping mostly on sheep stations.

"I had travelled from Sydney with a mate John in our 1934 Nash and when we got as far as Dirranbandi in Queensland, we had three shillings and sixpence between two of us (35c). It was Saturday morning and we had to decide whether we were going to put petrol in our car and go on to the next big town - St George or whether to look for a job in Dirranbandi.

"We decided to go into the pub and spend our three and six. We were standing at the bar and I could hear this bloke standing beside me saying to the barman, "I don't know what I'm going to do. I'll have to shut the camp down if I don't get a cook." So I said, "Excuse me mate but do you know where I can get a job?" He said, "What do you do?" I said, "I'm a cook!" So he took us out to his camp, which was about three miles out of town. It was a camp of tents and humpies. He showed us the kitchen and he said, "I'll be back in a minute!" When he came back he had a couple of pick handles. He said, "Here's a pick handle each. The last cook got a terrible hiding and you'll need these to protect yourself!"

"Well we stayed there three months and we never had any problems. We didn't have to use the pick handles, but the first night, I forget what we cooked for tea but when I walked outside there were all the dirty dishes sitting there. I said, "Bugger this!" So next morning when they came in for breakfast I said, "There's a couple of dixies of hot water out there by the door. You can wash your dishes as you go." I got my mate to go out and watch them as they went and only one bloke didn't wash his plate. So when he came in for his dinner that night I slopped his dinner on his dirty plate. I never had any more trouble.

"They were a road gang building a new road from the end of the railway at Dirranbandi. They were the days when you would be put in jail if you didn't pay your alimony. The coppers rode into town one night and took 18 of the 36 workers leaving only half a crew.

"I then drove back to Sydney and went driving RSL Taxis for a woman at Bondi. I stuck at it for a few years on a night shift and I had a couple of funny things happen. I had a carload of nuns - five real Sisters of St Joseph. I picked them up at Mount Street Convent and they were going to Smithfield. It was all country then. It was just on dark and two fifteen year old kids in a car came on to me from the right. They had just bought their car that day. They had never had licences, never had registration and they had no lights. I was in a Holden taxi and they just clipped the back bumper bar and my taxi skidded sideways and rolled up the gutter and sat on its side on the bank. I crawled out the driver's window. I didn't know what I was going to do with the nuns inside. The car had only just settled on its side against the bank so I pushed it back onto its wheels. I think a few 'hail Marys' were said but no one was injured.

"About half past three in the morning one day, I was driving for ABC Taxis on the North Shore and I was the only taxi on the road when the dispatcher called me up and said, "I've got a fare at Cammeray that

wants to go to Neutral Bay. How far away are you?" I said I was a good twenty minutes but I said, "If you keep her on the phone I will run for it!" He said she was waiting at a public phone box, that she had been to a party with a bloke and he played up a bit and she had left him to get a taxi home. He said she had a funny accent and that intrigued me. Turns out she was a Kiwi! She had only been in the country two or three weeks. I took her home and we arranged to meet on the Sunday and I took her to the zoo! She was Marlene who later became my wife.

"I drove taxis for about four years and Marlene would come along as navigator. She worked at a restaurant in Sydney on the afternoon and evening shift. I used to pick her up about half past nine and she would sit in the cab with me until half past twelve when I would drop her off home then I would do another couple of hours before knocking off. That was the only way we could see each other although it was highly illegal! I would introduce her to my clients as the only white Maori in captivity. She sat in the front seat with me and the clients sat in the back. I never had any objections! Most passengers thought it was a great joke.

"Then we decided to get married. Marlene got a job in New Zealand for six months. So she went over there. I thought I had better introduce myself to her parents so I followed and met her parents who lived in Christchurch. We got on very well. Old George was very religious but we reached an agreement pretty quick that he wouldn't convert me and I wouldn't convert him. I was just part of the family. Marlene had four brothers and I was just another brother. We decided to get married in Christchurch where I worked as a mechanic on trucks for a carrying firm for about eighteen months before we returned to Sydney.

"In 1962 our son Barry was born in Sydney then we decided to go back to New Zealand for a while and our daughter Linda was born over there. So we had one each way! Marlene's father got me a job at New Zealand Industrial Gasses filling acetylene cylinders. I did shift work and on my off shift George and I would be demolishing houses. We built the business up so much we couldn't handle the two jobs so we formed a company 'Townsend & Kemp' and went demolishing full time. We would strip the places of any resalable items. Then we would burn the rest of it. Drop it all on the ground and burn it. Then we would hire someone to shift the concrete foundations. After a couple of years, George and I had a disagreement. I can't remember what it was all about but Marlene and I came back to Australia and we bought a house at Erminston near Parramatta and I bought a carrying truck and I got work with Brian Reilly Freighters for about ten years mostly as a mechanic.

"I then returned to New Zealand and bought back into the Townsend & Kemp business. We stayed there for ten years while the kids were growing up and doing their schooling. We bought eleven acres which is not much in Australia but in God's own country 10 acres has a good carrying capacity. We started off with a few cows, then tried pigs and ended up with eighty sheep.

"Whilst in New Zealand I had a couple of heart attacks. I returned to Australia and had a four coronary artery bypass carried out by Victor Chang's team. Meanwhile we sold our house and travelled the North Coast in a caravan. Whilst passing through Ballina,

Marlene said she wanted to live in a house again, so I built the house in Wardell where we now live.

"About December 1990 I joined the local Fire Brigade when Trevor Stoker was the Captain. I was in the Brigade two or three years and I was elected Deputy Captain for a year and then Senior Deputy when Merv Lindsay became the Captain. I had a crew in the State Championships about four times. About 1997 I was elected Group Captain of the group including Meerschaum Vale, Wardell and Alstonville Brigades.

"One of the most memorable out of area fires for me was at Parkes. It took us overnight to get there and on Christmas Day we got ham sandwiches from the Salvation Army for Christmas dinner. We were there five days firefighting and relieving the local crews who had been battling the fires for about three weeks. We were about to get in the trucks and come home when we were redeployed to the Blue Mountains.



Rex with Marlene when Commissioner Fitzsimmons presented Rex with the Commissioner's Commendation saying that Rex was a most worthy candidate for the award. Rex says that his prime concern is to see that volunteer firefighters get a fair go!

"I've been involved in the Sydney and Canberra fires and several times out west at Coonabarabran. But it is here on the Far North Coast that I have been most involved with firefighting and I have come to know the farmers and residents well through my authority to issue fire permits. I got involved with Fire Training mainly because Ray Collyer, when he was the Fire Control Officer in Ballina, was very keen on training. When we zoned with Byron, they hadn't had any training at all so we then had about seven years of course after course after course to bring them up to our level. I enjoyed that. I always tried to let them know: this what you do, this is how you do it, this is why you do it. This is what happens if you don't do it!

"I need to devote my time now to being with Marlene because, for health reasons, she can't be left on her own. It has been an interesting journey for me."

Rex Kemp