

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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Some of our men who volunteered and never returned from World War 1

The Wardell and District Honour Roll commemorates the names of those who served their country in the first world war. From this small community, over two hundred and thirty brave young men pledged their all. At least 27 never came home.

Percy Hampden Lumley #1183 of Wardell - 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment. He died of wounds in Palestine on 30 March 1918 aged about 22 and is buried at Jerico War Cemetery.

Clarence Thomas Lumley #6339 of Wardell - 9th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action in Belgium on 20 September 1917. He has no known grave but is recorded at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium.

Harry Stamp #5105 of Wardell - 26th Infantry Battalion. He was Killed in Action at Fleurs on 5 November 1916 aged 24 and is commemorated at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France.

Leonard Roach Payne #5094A of Wardell - 49th Australian Infantry Battalion. He died in France aged 24 on 13 October 1918 and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Cemetery, France.

Alfred James Sladen #3485 of Empire Vale - 15th Australian Infantry Battalion. He died of wounds in France on 19 September 1918 aged 23 and is buried at Doingt Cemetery, Picardie, France.



Walter Vivian Elliot

Martin Austin Nilon #6505 of Meerschaum Vale - 9th Australian Infantry Battalion. He died of wounds in France 21 July 1918 aged 25. He is buried at Borre British Cemetery, Hazebrouck, Nord Pas de Calais.

Angus Bruce Robins #249 of Empire Vale - 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment. Killed in Action at Gallipoli on 14 November 1915 and buried at Gallipoli in the Shell Green Cemetery.

Ernest Victor Robins #6051 of Keith Hall - 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company. No details available.

George Clarence Barrow #2557 of Empire Vale - 15th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed In Action at Pozieres, France on 6 August 1916 aged 22. He is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Walter Vivian Elliott #1894 of Empire Vale - 26th Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action at Gallipoli on 28 November 1915 aged 27 and buried at Gallipoli.

William Elliott #1160 of Empire Vale - 2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment. He died of wounds in Palestine on 17 July 1918 aged 26 and is buried at the Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel.

John Wycliffe Wootten #6936 He was the Minister of the Wardell Methodist Church - 4th Australian Infantry Battalion. He died of wounds on 11 September 1918 aged 25 and is buried at Roisel, France.

William Halden Wootten #2471 of Wardell - 4th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action 15 April 1917 aged 25. He has no known grave but is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

John Ormond #2722 of Broadwater - 52nd Australian Infantry Battalion. Died of wounds 29 Aug 1917 and buried at Westhof Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium.

Some of our men who volunteered and never returned from World War 1

Leslie Robert Phillips #1615 of Wardell - 3rd Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action at Gallipoli on 7 Aug 1915 aged 21 and buried at Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli.

William George Manning #865 of Wardell - 5th Australian Infantry Battalion. He died in Egypt of wounds sustained at Gallipoli on 24 June 1915 aged 27 and is buried in Cairo, Egypt.

Edward Stephen Outerbridge #2785 of Meerschaum Vale - 47th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed at Messines Ridge, Belgium on 2 June 1917 aged 23. He is commemorated at Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

Leo Charles Thomson #3512 of Wardell - 49th Australian Infantry Battalion. He was Killed in Action in France on 11 August 1918 and is buried at the French National Cemetery, Etinehem, Picardie, France.

John Frithiof Broander #4097 of Wardell - 26th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action in France on 5 November 1916, he has no known grave but is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

John Campbell #29 of Wardell - 31st Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action on 20 July 1916 at the battle of Fromelles, aged 19, he is buried at Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix France.

Percy Cook #2737 of Rileys Hill - 47th Australian Infantry Battalion. Died of wounds on 9 August 1916, aged 19 years. He is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Frederick Harold Jones #2153 of Wardell - 15th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action at Sari Bahr, Gallipoli on 8 August 1915, aged 21 years. He is commemorated at Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli.

Oswald Warwick Roberts #919 of Wardell - 42nd Australian Infantry Battalion. Known as "the Mascot", he was Killed in Action in Belgium on 4 October 1917 aged 23 years. He is commemorated at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium.

James McKenzie #857 - 5th Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in Action 26 April 1915 at Gallipoli and buried at Quinn's Post Cemetery, Gallipoli.

Leonard C Beggs MM #1120 - 22nd Australian Infantry Battalion. Served at Gallipoli and then Belgium where he 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.

Roy Bartlett #10 of Wardell - 26th Australian Infantry Battalion. He served at Gallipoli and in France. He died 5 September 1920 in Australia after being gassed on the battlefield. He is buried in Randwick Sydney.

William Reuben Bartlett #2558 of Wardell - 12th Australian Infantry Battalion. He was killed in Action in France on 19 August 1916 aged 29. He is buried at Beaumont Hamel, Picardie, France.

John Joseph O'Connor #936 of Empire Vale - 15th Australian Infantry Battalion. Wounded at Gallipoli and died of wounds in Egypt on 1 June 1915. He was aged 38. He had previously served with the Johannesburg Mounted Rifles in the Boer War. He is buried in Cairo, Egypt.

Herbert James Purdie #2814A of East Wardell - 9th Australian Infantry Battalion. He was Killed in Action near Pozières France on 22 August 1916 aged 21. He has no known grave but is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."



Over 60,000 Australians died during the First World War. Memorial plaques were issued to the closest next of kin. Each plaque is 120mm in diameter and bears an image of "Britannia" and a lion as well as an inscription: "He died for freedom and honour." The individual's name was engraved as part of the design. No rank, unit or decorations are shown, befitting the equality of the sacrifice made by all casualties.

The Blackwall Historical Society has presented a World War 1 honour board to the Wardell & District Memorial Hall commemorating those from this district who went to war 100 years ago.

The Sugartowns Jumbunna Community Preschool

Tucked away behind St Patrick's Church in Wardell is the magic world of the Sugartowns Mobile Jumbunna Community Preschool. On Mondays and Tuesdays of every school week, up to twenty pupils aged between two and a half and five years take their first steps in a stimulating environment where children can meet and engage with others safely in friendly surroundings.

Sylvia Whitney is the Coordinator. She is ably assisted by Jodi and Cathy but parents are encouraged to visit and share the experience. "We've had some great music afternoons and cooking and gardening afternoons. We welcome any parents who are able to give some input to our school," says Sylvia.



Classes are usually held outside in the mornings when it is cool and inside as the day warms up.



Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre at Casino is the parent body. The Sugar Towns Community Preschool is run as a reverse integration preschool which means that instead of having children with special needs coming in to do "sessions" separate from other children, they all integrate and learn from one another.

Sylvia says, "All the families that come here love the fact that it feels like an extension of home. This community based preschool is run for the children of this community. That is the only reason we are here."

To enquire about vacancies for your child, please visit the preschool on Mondays or Tuesdays or telephone

(02) 6683 4267.

The Biggest Morning Tea



Knit n' Knat

Every Thursday 9 am to 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 Victoria Hopkins and Daphne Riley.

Thursday 21 May 2015

from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Wardell & District War Memorial Hall
 Sponsored by the Wardell Knit n' Knat.

A gold coin donation for entry, lucky door prize, lots of raffles.

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.

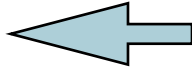
Sue Steel. Telephone 6683 4994

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.



In Blackwall Bugle #29 we praised Ballina Shire Council for providing a much needed bus shelter for our travelling students. The nearby residents were to be commended for giving their blessing to the project.

Now all has changed!

The Bus Stops Here!

Some of the nearby residents in Carlisle Street want the shelter taken away and a return to the days when the students had to live with the wind and rain.

It has been reported that food scraps, drink bottles and assorted rubbish has been strewn around the area even though neighbouring garbage bins have been made available for the students to use.

Further more there has been some destruction of nearby garden shrubs and it has been reported that there has been some bullying of some students by others. Clearly it is not a happy situation. The footnote to the Bugle story last April said, "It is up to us now to look after it." That is not happening. We parents need to take a positive interest in keeping our town beautiful and our children safe.



The Carlisle Street Bus Shelter

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation held a very successful afternoon on the first Monday in March with visitors from far and wide. We were happy to welcome the Hon Don Page, member for Ballina, who presented certificates of appreciation to Olive Creighton, Betty Whitney and Betty Fernance who have been members of the PLCO since its foundation 55 years ago. they have helped raise thousands of dollars for worthy charities through their hard work and dedication.

We look forward to seeing you at the Pimlico Hall on the first Monday of the month at 1.30 pm for a delicious afternoon tea and a game of hoiy. A bus will be running from Ballina and the details can be obtained from the above telephone number. You will all be made very welcome.



Betty Fernance



A Sign of the Times

This sign on a tree by St Patrick's Church speaks volumes. If the motorway were to come through town as some would wish, would that be the end of the 100 year old church? Or would it mean losing the fire station, Maylee House and the Wardell Pottery? Over ten years ago our community was consulted through the Community Liaison Group which was open to all. The group chose the western bypass. The majority of us stick by that decision!

Pimlico Weather. Rain fell on 13 days in February with 260 mm for the month. The wettest day was the 28th when 120 mm was registered. The soya beans are looking very healthy and should be harvested around Easter. The trash gets hoed into the ground to make excellent fertiliser for the cane.

Sisters of Mercy

Sister Grace Laverty, of the Wardell convent, joined with Sister Margaret Bannon of Port Macquarie and Sister Mollie of Perth to represent Australia at the 175th anniversary of the foundation of The Sisters of Mercy in Bermondsey, England. It was the Sisters of Mercy in Bermondsey who came to Grafton in 1884 to found the convent that in time created the Mercy Centre in Wardell.

After flying to England, the Australians took part in several ceremonies including a welcoming mass followed, the next day, by a big celebration for over five hundred people including two archbishops, a bishop, thirty priests and a welcoming choir. At the Mass of Thanksgiving, Grace carried the gorgeous big chalice. She said that at the consecration, when the priest held up the chalice, it was an awesome moment for her as she had "jam packed" the chalice with all her Australian friends.

After the celebrations, refreshments were served and the celebrants were joined by homeless people who came in from the street.

At the beginning of December, Grace and Margaret flew from Heathrow to Cologne where they visited the impressive cathedral and spent a lot of time over two days in the exciting Christmas markets. They then joined the Amadeus Princess river boat for an extensive cruise up the River Rhine sailing to Mainz, Speyer, Strasbourg and Heidelberg which they fell in love with. The boat then turned around and came back down the Rhine sailing elegantly amidst flocks of graceful white swans.

The other passengers were mostly Scots and Japanese with an occasional Queenslander! But when they went ashore they all mingled together.

After the end of that stage of their holiday, they flew from Cologne to Dublin and went to Baggot Street where Catherine McAuley had first founded the order of the Sisters of Mercy. They spent just the one night there then took their little carry bags to their friends in Westport, Ireland. They first met their friend Jo when she had been working in Australia before she left to marry an Irishman and set up home on the west coast of Ireland at Westport.



Mount Croagh Patrick

The wild Atlantic winds, with driving hail and snow, almost blew the travellers home to Australia, but it also covered the nearby Mount Croagh Patrick in a complete blanket of snow that could be seen from the bedroom window.

Jo and Val were generous hosts and took Grace and Margaret on an extensive tour of all the ancient churches and magnificent Benedictine Monasteries tucked away in hidden valleys where gentle sheep with wooly black heads and black feet roamed freely.

Then it was a long flight home to Port Macquarie for Margaret and to Wardell for Grace. She was pleased to be home with Larelle but has many happy memories to carry into the future.

The Wardell War Memorial

You are probably aware that a light truck collided with the War Memorial and demolished it. The driver admitted fault and was prepared to pay the cost of reconstruction but the Hall Committee decided the Cenotaph was beyond repair and investigated other options.



Pat Carney as President of the Wardell & District Progress Association applied for a grant to help with the costs. John Stead, the President of the Hall Committee, sought permission from military authorities to use Navy, Army and Airforce crests. The Ballina RSL Sub-Branch was consulted.

Pat Carney and John visited Holcin Teven Quarry. The owners were happy to donate a granite rock which is just the right size for the memorial. Peter Moore of Wardell Landscape Suppliers moved the rock to Wardell and Les Eggins is setting the rock in place. It is to be hoped that the memorial plaque will be ready for the ANZAC day centenary on 25 April this year. Thanks are also due to Warren Barnes for keeping the hall grounds immaculate for many years.





Petals Fall

The recent deaths of Geoff and Bev Attewell marked the end of an era for Wardell. Many years ago Geoff was bringing a tractor with a Howard rotary hoe across the river on the ferry. He used the crank-handle to start the petrol/kerosene motor. The tractor was in gear. The engine fired and drove the crank handle through Geoff's groin and into the ferry gates. They couldn't move the tractor or the gates. He was bleeding to death. Mrs Timmins, the wife of the owner of the Royal Hotel, was a nurse. She was rushed over to the ferry and stopped the bleeding and probably saved Geoff's life.

Geoff lost his lower leg but refused to slow down. He and Bev bought the Bartlet's Store on the river front opposite the jetty just before they got married. It is now a residence. Geoff would hop around the store on his good leg using calipers. I knew Bev since high school days in 1948 when we used to go to Guides and sing in the Anglican Church Choir on Sundays. She had a good sense of humour and was quick witted. They were great community spirited people in town, supporting all organizations, with Geoff looking after the Wardell cricket teams. Everybody respected the Attewells.

Their store was a one stop shop where they sold everything. It was a small shop and if half a dozen people got in there it was quite crowded. But if you wanted something they would most probably have it even if they had to get a ladder and find it somewhere up near the ceiling. They sold milk, veggies, newspapers and groceries. A lot of local growers supplied them with veggies. They supported the school and anything else in the town. Geoff used to deliver. If you wanted anything you could ring him up and he would deliver it. Geoff used to do the paper run down to Empire Vale, Broadwater, Back Channel and everywhere. They had a very good rapport with the Cabbage Tree Island aborigines who preferred to do business with Geoff and Bev than travel into Ballina.

Everything we did in Wardell was supported by Attewell's shop and Rudgley's service station. They always gave us a donation and always gave us a discount when we were putting something on for the town. They supported all the activities in Wardell.

The shop closed about 1992 as more people turned to Ballina for their groceries. The Attewells transferred their news-agency to Sue Wardrobe who then owned and managed the BP service station. It was a sad day when they closed the store as it was when the bank closed down. It was a busy town in those days and we had a hundred and more kids going to school.

Another recent loss to our town has been Gil van Bekkum's wife Barbara who was a stalwart of the Blackwall Historical Society. She dedicated many hours of voluntary labour putting together the pieces of history that created this great place of ours.

Rose Leeson.

Australia Day Awards 2015

The Ballina Shire Australia Day ceremony was held at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre. Bunjalung elder Lewis Cook welcomed everyone then Daniel Kapeen gave a brilliant digeridoo performance. Author and television presenter Leigh Sales was guest of honour. The audience was entertained by Gabriel and Cecilia Brandini fresh from 'The Voice 2014' and by the Headliners Chorus.



Mike Rushby, Karen Rantissi and Ruth Partridge.

The Mayor - Cr David Wright, the Member for Ballina - Mr Don Page MP, the Federal Member for Page - Mr Kevin Hogan MP, - and the Guest of Honour - Leigh Sales addressed the packed Community Centre.

Among the twenty-six nominees for group and individual awards this year were three from the 'Blackwall' area.

Ruth Partridge, the President of the Wardell Branch of The Red Cross, which was formed during World War I, was nominated for the Community Event of the Year as the Red Cross branch celebrated its centenary of continuous service to the public.

The Arts Cultural Award went to Karen Rantissi who is a creative arts teacher at Empire Vale Public School. She is an inspiration to the school community, always looking for new ways to engage her students in relevant and meaningful learning experiences. Karen also seeks out professional development opportunities; undertaking a music teaching scholarship with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. As an artist herself, Karen is always exploring new art styles and skills which she shares with her students.

A joint winner of the Senior Citizen of the Year Award was Mike Rushby for his contribution to the community.

Photo- Kerry Turpin

Molasses to Mathematics

- and everything in between.

Pat Carney speaks with Mike Rushby

My ancestors came from County Clare in Ireland in 1890. There were two brothers and a sister. My grandfather Patrick was 20 years old. He worked on the Tablelands for a while with the railways. Eventually he and his brother settled here. He married Mary Moylan at German Creek, which was later named Empire Vale. I have his marriage certificate dated 1893. Mary Moylan's parents were also of Irish stock and arrived here in 1852. The other brother, Dennis, settled up at Tintenbar. You might have seen 'Carney's Place' up on the highway there. The sister may have ended up in Brisbane but I haven't been able to follow up on her life. Grandfather Patrick must have been a hard worker. He and his wife had nine children and over a period of time – probably forty years - he accumulated about eight 40-acre farms just across the river from here in the area now known as Carneys Lane. There is also a farm at Keith Hall.

Patrick and Mary built their family home, which is still standing, although not occupied, on the corner of Carneys Lane and River Drive at East Wardell. The house later belonged to my Uncle, then my cousin but has since been sold. Grandfather Patrick died in 1934.

Since then most of the farms have been sold with four farms remaining with descendants. I have one of the farms, which was my father's. When my grandparents died they left a farm to each of their children except for one daughter who entered a convent and didn't need one. The other two girls got a farm each. Of the six brothers, one brother was unfortunately burnt to death, one gambled his farm away and the others, three of whom were bachelors, kept their farms until the 1960s.

I have two sisters - Shirley and Lorraine. Shirley lives in Ballina and has lived there all her life. Lorraine married Ray Robins whose story appeared in the Blackwall Bugle #33. She is retired and lives in Port Macquarie. We all grew up on the farm at East Wardell. When I was about sixteen, I used to do farm work during the school holidays for Merv Robins and I helped him for a number of years. Later, when I was teaching, I still helped Merv plant cane. He used to reciprocate and when he was retiring I approached him to buy his large farm. In 1980 he sold half the farm to me and half to his other neighbour.

My father was named Jim but was known as "Kelly" Carney. Mum was Clare Nippess from Maclean. They met when Dad worked at the mill and Mum worked in the hotel at Broadwater. I was born in Ballina in 1945 and raised on the farm. I went to school at St Patrick's School up on the hill at Wardell. As a five-year old, I would ride a pushbike from the farm up the Pacific Highway to the ferry each day. Luckily there wasn't that much traffic on the Pacific Highway in those days. Then I would come across the Richmond River on the ferry. If the river was too high for the ferry to operate, they would put us in a rowboat and row us across the river. This would also happen in times of flood often in times of dangerous conditions. I got a good education here at St Patrick's. In those days there were three nuns living at the convent and there were about one hundred students at the school. One particular teacher, Sister Gregory, was very good and encouraged me in mathematics.



Pat Carney on the verandah of his riverside home. Behind him, across the Richmond, are the cane fields where he grew up.

My parents were in Ballina one Saturday morning in 1955 when I, as a ten-year-old boy, caught the ferry from East Wardell. I used to do a bit of extra schooling on a Saturday morning in preparation for a bursary and I was also going to get a newspaper from Meany's Café, Milk Bar and News agency on what is now called Bridge Street. The approaches to the ferry were covered in river hyacinth. As I stepped barefooted over the weed a snake bit me on my instep. Several people witnessed the incident and an Aboriginal man killed the snake. There were no mobile phones around in those days.

When Jacky Thomson, the ferry driver, saw the puncture marks on my foot, he and others decided an incision needed to be made and the poison sucked out (as one did in those days.... remember?) They rushed me across the river on the ferry and took me to Ernie Chapman's Barber Shop that was in front of the billiard room next door to Meany's Store. 'Chappy' stropped his cutthroat razor and made a neat incision in my foot with no trouble at all. He then applied his lips to the wound and sucked out the poison. All in a day's work for a barber!

My Aunt Bibby Kelly was called from the hotel where she worked. She and others decided a trip to hospital was needed. Henry Esgate, the Wardell Taxi owner, drove me to Ballina Hospital but he was more concerned for the health of his taxi and took a long time to make the journey down Pimlico Road. The hospital was apparently happy with the treatment given to me by the Wardell barber and just kept me under observation. The only medication applied was a shot of brandy the hospital gave to my father when he arrived to see me!

From St Patrick's School I was lucky enough to win a State bursary, which enabled me to go to Woodlawn College for five years basically free of charge. I did five years at Woodlawn as a boarder. I had mixed feelings about going to Woodlawn. I was pretty

homesick at the start but I enjoyed the sport. I played cricket, tennis, football, boxing, and baseball. I played football at university but gave that up in my mid twenties whilst I have enjoyed cricket and tennis all my life.

When I came home from Woodlawn School for holidays I used to help my father on the farm and would also do work for other farmers. We had a house cow and my mother would make our own butter. Occasionally she would sell some butter to Ray Collyer's mother. I can remember delivering butter there. My mother was a very good cook and we had a pretty good life. Quite often, because we lived on the corner, we always had people calling in for morning tea and sampling some of her great cooking. After my father died I still stayed at home and lived with my mother. I stayed there until I got married. Mum was a widow for twenty odd years and she lived out there on her own and was very happy.

At home, like everyone else, we had no money. I can still remember that my father worked the farm with horses. His first tractor would have been about 1960. Until then he had working draft horses and that was it. We used to have a lot of chooks, the dairy cow, a veggie garden and the usual things you have on a farm. We had good neighbours and I still like to catch up with some of the people who were my neighbours way back when. When my father died, my mother couldn't drive, so I got the old VW beetle. I took that to uni with me and I was a bit of a hit up there having a car in those days.

I stayed on at school until leaving certificate with the encouragement of my father. Mathematics was always my forte. When I was twelve and I did my bursary exam, I scored 300 out of 300 for mathematics and topped the North Coast. I was lucky enough to win another Commonwealth scholarship in the Leaving Certificate. That enabled me to go on to the University of New England at Armidale and do a four-year course to become a high school teacher. I majored in mathematics. My father was very good at mathematics. Even though he worked the farm, he also worked at the sugar mill in Broadwater. It was his job to calculate the weight of the cane on the sugar punts as they came in. He did that with a 'check gauge' that gauged the displacement of the punts. From that he could calculate the weight of the cane. He was a cane farmer and also a part-time builder and he encouraged me to enjoy mathematics. I was at university and only nineteen when my father died.

My Mother ran the farm with the help of a couple of the neighbours for no charge. Everyone helped but Frank Hardigan and Ray Walsh in particular helped out for two or three years to enable me to complete my university course. After graduating, I was sent first to Macksville then to Ballina High School in 1968. I was able to work the farm and teach. I didn't seek promotion because that would have meant moving. I taught until 2006.

My weekends were pretty full. I would take the kids to sport Saturday morning then I would be off to the races in the afternoon, umpiring cricket on a Sunday and back to work on Monday.

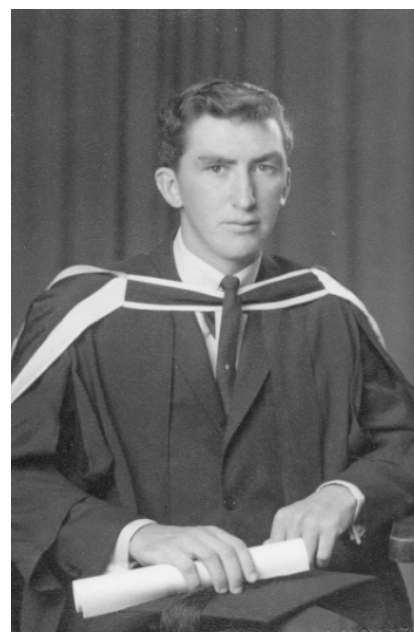
In my youth there were tennis courts all over the place. I learnt to play my tennis when I was about eleven and was taught by Morrie Walsh who was Jim Walsh's brother. There were private tennis courts at Jim Walsh's place. As a kid I was very interested in boxing and would listen to the fights of a Monday night when I was only eight or nine. So when I went to Woodlawn and there was boxing, I was very excited that I could actually get in there and have a few fights. I think I won four years out of five but,

looking back, I was only competing against other students in the school.

I played cricket locally and I was Treasurer of the Ballina District Cricket Association for a number of years. I was involved with the Ballina Football Club and I played tennis and coached tennis and cricket at school. I then became involved in coaching cricket outside of school as well. I used to take North Coast teams away on tour to carnivals at Newcastle, Gunnedah, Taree and other locations. Most of the teams were competitive and did well against other teams including city teams.

Meanwhile, I got involved with a couple of fellows in bookmaking as a hobby. Eventually I got my license about 1976 and I did bookmaking at the races most Saturday afternoons at Ballina, Lismore and Casino. In those days there was racing every Saturday. I treated it as a hobby but it was a licensed business with good pocket money on the side. With television and on-line betting people don't go to the races the way they used to.

I purchased a block of land on the river in Wardell for \$6000 in 1973. That is where I live today. I have been lucky to have had wonderful neighbours all that time. In 1974 I got married and we had a son David. Selina and I came together about two years after Lynn and I were divorced. Her two children Jamie and Lucinda got on very well with David. Lucinda is a teacher in Brisbane, Jamie is an accountant in Ballina and David is part owner of real estate business Century 21. So they are all leading useful and successful lives.



The Graduate

I wasn't too involved with the local community when I was teaching. I had a fairly full commitment with farming and teaching, bookmaking, coaching kids and raising a family. But when I retired in 2006 and I had more time on my hands, someone suggested that the President of the Progress Association was retiring and they needed someone to take over the job. So I thought "Why not! I'll give it a go!" I thought the town needed a few things done and so I got involved and have been involved with the community ever since. I believe the town has improved considerably in recent years – not through me, but you need someone to push it. Council officers now know me and we have a good working relationship. I might on occasions overstep the mark but I think we understand one another pretty well.

I think the future looks good for Wardell. We can all work together to ensure a safe and happy future for the town.

Pat Carney

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