

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

PO Box 53 Wardell NSW 2477

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blackwall-bugle@bigpond.com

Telephone 02 6683 4561

<http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/blackwallbugle>



Photo taken by Allan Monti using a drone at 80m above the family farm. It shows where the Pacific Motorway relates to the Old Bagotville Road and Montis Road. The view is looking South towards Broadwater.

Coolgardie story

by *Coolgardie resident Christopher Beck*

New highway access being constructed

It is hard not to miss the work on the Coolgardie Road interchange now being constructed about 3.5 km north of Wardell and which will be the main entry point from the Pacific Highway for the area.

The interchange is in the Richmond River to Ballina Bypass section of the Woolgoolga to Ballina highway upgrade.

It will provide access to Wardell, Pimlico and Coolgardie, using two roundabouts at either side of the upgraded highway and be connected by an overbridge.

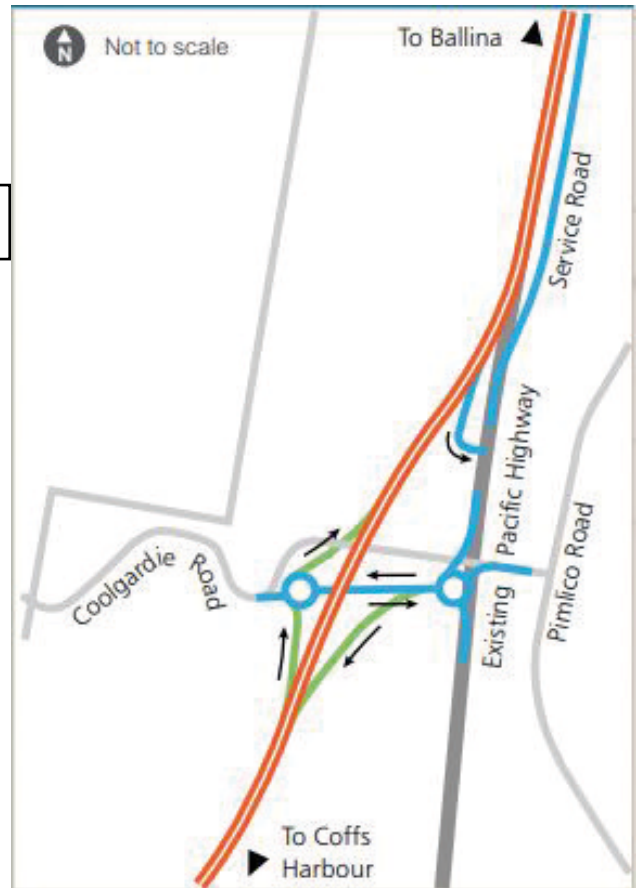
A spokesperson for Roads and Maritime Services said the north-facing and south-facing ramps will provide access to the interchange and connections to Coolgardie Road at Pimlico and Wardell.

The western roundabout will connect the ramps associated with the northbound lanes and Coolgardie Road. The eastern roundabout will connect the ramps associated with the southbound lanes and the existing highway, which will become a service road. The service road will provide access to Wardell to the south and Pimlico to the north and ultimately connect to nearby interchanges.

There will also be a dedicated bus stop area on the eastern side for safe pick-up and drop-off for local users.

The interchange is being built by a number of contractors including Lendlease Engineering, Advanced Foundation Solutions and Quickway.

Weather permitting the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade is expected to be open to traffic in 2020.



Local residents can see the benefits that the interchange and highway upgrade will bring, although some concern has been voiced about the way some houses are now exposed to noise from passing traffic as a result of extensive tree clearing.

Roads and Maritime is working closely with residents about their eligibility for noise treatments.



Artist's impression of the designed Coolgardie interchange travelling North along the Pacific Highway

An RMS spokesperson said: “The Operational Noise Review for the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade is being finalised and will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for approval. RMS has guidelines which detail appropriate mitigation measures for buildings identified for treatment as a result of operational noise.”

“Mitigation measures for consideration include window glazing and air-conditioning, creating soil mounds with excess material from the project and noise walls.” Another issue that is vexing some Coolgardie Road residents is the affect the interchange might have on an increase in unwanted traffic along their no-through road.



Aerial image of interchange from draft urban design and landscape plan. *RMS Artists impression.*



Earthworks underway for the Coolgardie Road interchange facing north toward Ballina.
Photo by Christopher Beck.



Memories of Pimlico by Benita Parker.
The teacher is Mr Arthur Bickmore.
Back row left to right, Sid Smith, Mervyn Garrett, John Youngberry, Noel Fernance.
Middle row - Benita Brown, Betty McLennan, Muriel Ross, Pam McLennan, Gloria Leeson, Pam Pelligreen.
Front row - Ron Leeson, Bill Ross, Frankie Fernance, Jimmy Youngberry.
(missing Don Whyte)

Pimlico History. By Benita Parker

For many years I kept in touch with Rose Leeson who had an extraordinary grasp on the history of the Wardell area and of course some of this overflowed into the Pimlico area. Thankfully she has left me with quite a bit of wonderful information but there is much still to find out. If you have any stories, photos or information about Pimlico could you please get in touch with me by email at bgparker@optusnet.com.au or contact Mike for my phone number.

I was born and raised in Pimlico, first on my father Peter Brown's banana plantation on the hills behind Whytes farm, then we moved down and Dad built the house (still there) next to the Pimlico Hall. He then became a cane farmer until his death in 1971. Mum remarried and moved into Ballina where she passed away in 2001. I went to Pimlico Primary school where Arthur Bickmore was the resident teacher.

I sincerely hope that someone reading the Bugle will have memories and memorabilia they would like to share before it is lost to all With sincere thanks, **Benita Brown (Parker)**

Benita was born and raised in Pimlico. She and husband Gary live in Victoria but came to Wardell and Pimlico in their motor home last month. They visited the hall where they are seen in the photo to be sitting in exactly the same spot where she sat as a 14 year old at a cane-cutters' ball. A young Frenchman then approached her and asked, "Est-ce que vous parlez Français?" To which she replied, "Un peu", having just completed at school her first year French. He whipped her off her seat and propelled her around the hall at a furious pace all the while talking to her in French. A memorable occasion!



Gary and Benita

Wardell that Was

by the late Mrs Henry William Lumley

My father, John Butler Ford, with his wife and one child came to Coraki from Moreton Bay to work at Yabsley's mill. He stayed in the employ of Mr. Yabsley for about 8 or 10 years at different kinds of work. Part of the work that father did whilst at Coraki was rafting logs down the river as far as Wardell, which at that time, was called "Blackwall" — so called because there was a wall of black rock extending from Bingal Creek for a quarter of a mile down stream.

The logs were drawn by bullocks. They were then cut and rolled into the river and chained together by passing the chain through an eye in a spike, called a "dog" which is driven into the logs. There were two chains to keep the logs together and they formed a platform called a "raft". The men who piloted them often lived on the raft in a tent and cooked some food over a fire in a kerosene drum. They had a boat and also a long pole to push the logs off the shore at times. They had to work with the tide. When the tide turned they fastened the raft to the bank until it turned again. A trip would take some days to accomplish.

The rafts seldom went past Wardell as the ships would be waiting there for the logs. At times there would be five, six and more vessels anchored in the bay near Bingal Creek waiting for their cargo. Wardell was a very bush little town at that time. There were two sawmills — one on the North side of the river owned by Mr. Ernest Carter, and one on the South side, a little further down, owned by Mr. James James, and known as Jimmy Jimmy's mill.

There were 2 hotels — one owned by Mrs. Cottee and the other by Mrs. Tyler. Later two more hotels were started — Thomas O'Connor's was quite close to Mrs. Tyler's, which was called the "Star", and Mr. Sam Smith built a house adjoining Sinclair Street — all three on the river bank. Mr. Sohn, with the help of his daughter, kept the store and Post Office for many years. There was another Post Office on the South side of the river, kept by a farmer who had been one of the very early settlers. It was known as the East Wardell Post Office, and it was kept going until well after 1900.

There was a general store down at the far end of town owned by Mr. Duncan McIntyre, who was a wonderful man and a great friend to the early settlers. The first blacksmith whom I remember was a Mr. Cooper whose shop was on the Carter's land facing Richmond Street. He was very clever and, if anyone's watch or clock went out of order, he would fix it for them.

In the early days when the sailing vessels came to the river for timber, they brought sandstone for ballast. The stones were unloaded anywhere along the bank. However, Mr. Carter made good use of them by having a stone wall built along the bank in front of his land down to Sinclair Street. He employed a stone mason, a Frenchman called Quinton, who also built piers for a little cottage on the corner of Richmond and Sinclair Street on the Carter's Land. The piers were six or seven feet high and Mr. Quinton lived in that house for some time. Early in the 80's Mr. Carter's mill was burnt down and a lot of men thrown out of work. However, it was not long until the mill was rebuilt and the work went on again.

At that time he set up an up to date joinery, and glazing works and the men who did this work were Mr. Brown and Mr. Jolly, who were there for some years. They then went to Lismore and set up their own business which has now developed into the firm of Brown and Jolly. Some little time after, Mr. Carter built a house for the Police Station which was comprised of two large rooms and kitchen for dwelling and a court room and charge room or office. The first Constable to live in it was Constable Murphy with his wife. They had one child. (The "Tar Pot" was shifted down off the hill.)

The next building on that ground was a small building for a bank and Mr. TC Lodge came from Lismore and opened a branch of the Australian Joint Stock Bank there.

In the early 1880s Mr. Edwin Bartlett came to Wardell and started a saddlery business which he worked for a time. Then he bought the business of the Post Office store from Mr. S. Sohn and got married. He and his brother carried on for many years.

The first baker started on Mr. D. McIntyre's land about 1880 or 1881. Mr. Roddan was a good baker and bread sold for 3d a loaf. They raised a big family there.

Mr. Siegfried Sohn was a manufacturing chemist and he was the only man that people went to in sickness, until Dr Chilcott came in the early 1880s. Following him, came Dr. Violett, then Dr. Tomlins then Dr. Forbes. When Dr. Tomlins left, he and his wife went to England and stayed there some few years, but on returning to Australia he bought the practice again from Dr. Forbes in November 1885. He stayed 4 or 5 years.

Mrs Tyler sold her interest in the Star Hotel to her son in law James Brown, in the early 1880s and he built a two storey house on the North side of Richmond Street, next to Swamp Street, where he carried on business for some years. Later the business was taken over by William Tyler, who carried on for some little time. The building was destroyed by fire in 1896.

For many years there was a regular steamboat service trading from Ballina to Lismore, run by Fenwick Brothers. A boat would leave Ballina every morning and one would leave Lismore and they would pass each other at Woodburn. They stopped at any convenient place along the bank to discharge passengers or parcels; they also carried the mail.

Sometime in the middle 1880s, J. and H. Lumley started business as butchers. They bought out some of the other shops and ran a good business for many years supplying meat from Broadwater to Keith Hall and Pimlico, Dalwood and Linwood — always the best cut. They closed down about 1900. Later two brothers started up as P and C. Lumley and they closed down after the war.

Henry Lumley, who had selected 180 acres near Wardell, in 1880 butchered for many years, supplying from Rous to Pimlico and Riley's Hill. He also was a farmer and blacksmith. There were 12 children:

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Wardell & District Progress Association Inc.

Meetings of the Progress Association are held in the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall. That is the place to be to find out what is going on and to express your views on what you believe needs to be done around here. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 7.00 pm.

President Pat Carney welcomes everyone to a meeting. The Mayor of Ballina Shire is invariably present, expert advisors attend to give situation reports, your opinions are always welcome and refreshments are available at the end of the meeting. What more could you want?

At the last meeting some of the matters dealt with included a noise draft plan on the road surface of the new highway, rural dwellings, the flood risk plan and new footpaths for Wardell. Reports were received on the success of 'The Art Show' and 'Light up the Hall'. The use of 4 wheeled drive vehicles on Patches Beach was once again a matter to be brought up with Ballina Shire Council following correspondence with The Minister for Environment.

To become a member of the Wardell & District Progress Association, just come to the next meeting, or contact the Secretary, Kerry Turpin at kerryturpin@hotmail.com

Rose Leeson

The Progress Association would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution Rose Leeson has given our community. She had been an active member in many of the committees aimed at improving Wardell. Rose was instrumental in establishing the Blackwall Historical Society and has left an enormous amount of recorded history to the society. She was a prolific letter writer and kept Ballina Council on their toes. Rose was a founder member of the Knit 'n Knat group and of the Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation.

No formal acknowledgement of Rose's life contribution has been made out of respect for the family's wishes.



You deserve to be pampered!

Tucked away in the very middle of the Wardell shopping centre is a delightful business called, **"Simply Fashion and Beauty."** It is owned and managed by Sue McCowan who was raised in Ballina but resides in Wardell. A boutique is a small retail store that focuses on selling unique items, or items targeted at a niche market. But Simply Fashion and Beauty includes a wide range of

products like clothing and jewellery, Sue has built up a well deserved reputation as a beautician. She can provide beauty treatments like waxing, manicures and body treatments to clients. She can also provide advice and recommend beauty treatments and products like skincare, haircare products and makeup as well as other cosmetic treatments.

Call in and say hello. It might change your life!



The Wardell Tennis Club meets to play social tennis every Monday at 6.30 pm. All ages are most welcome.

Gayle and Peter Moore

"I was born in Lismore Base Hospital on September 26, 1957," said Peter. "Mum was of Indian descent and Dad was Irish. They were both born in Australia – Mum in Coraki Hospital and reared here in Wardell just down the road at the junction of Carlisle Street and Bath Streets. My Grandmother Annie Singh was a fruit and veggie merchant in the area. A lot of the older people would know about her. She had a shop here in Wardell. It was the house on the corner that used to belong to Jean Gibson.

"Grannie used to deliver fruit and veggies around the area with a horse and sulky out to Cabbage Tree Island and out to Meerschaum Vale and all around the area. Where Dave Daley's original timber house is in Richmond Street, there was a market garden out the back and the old fella that grew the veggies there for Grannie was Angelo Conti.

"Mum and my uncles were reared in the house down there on the corner of Carlisle and Bath Streets – three hundred metres from where I am now. Dad was a roustabout. He was a 'fix-it-man' who could turn his hand to anything from fencing to fixing windmills, shearing sheep, anything. That's how Mum and Dad got together. They both had a child from previous relationships. Dad asked for a nanny to look after his daughter and Mum answered the call. Their relationship stemmed from there and they had four children together after that and I have two half-sisters.

"They returned out west to the sheep shearing country and then came back to the coast. We lived at Tregeagle and I went to Tregeagle Primary School. Then we moved to the Gap Road at Alstonville and I went to Alstonville Primary which put me into Lismore High School. We then moved to Ballina and I went to Ballina High School. So over all I know a lot of people in the local area. Lismore High had Coraki students so I got to know a lot of people in Coraki where Mum was born. With Ballina High I know most people of our age and younger.

"For most people around here I have been in their back yards doing a job for them from Meerschaum Vale to Marom Creek, Tucki, Uralba and Coolgardie.

"Our family is very close" said Gayle. I was born at Glen Innes. I was two years old when we moved to Lismore. My parents were Reg and Millie Ehrenberg who had four children of whom I was the last born. Dad was a carpenter and my Mum was a Mum doing house duty. I went to South Lismore Primary and Lismore High School. In 1975 I began a full time secretarial course at Lismore Technical College, then three and a half years studying Horticulture and Herb Production at Wollongbar TAFE. I am back there now in 2018 studying Beef Cattle Production.



"I met Peter while still at high school. We have now been married for 42 years and raised three beautiful children. Benjamin was born in 1976 and died in 2007. Samuel was born in 1984 and has a lovely son Trae. Zoe was born in 1987 and has two children Rubyn and Amarhnie.

"I have always worked and have enjoyed a wide variety of jobs, but my passions are organic gardening, bonsai, succulents and food growing. I love having the Wardell Nursery and Landscape business with Peter.

Peter said, "I met Gayle at Lismore High, although I was living in Ballina when we actually got together. The best part of the story is that we have been together for 44 years. We are mates and we've crossed a lot of bridges together – hard bridges – rocky ones. You still have to keep working on it. Last night we went to Woodburn and had a nice meal together. The night before, we were at Patches Beach putting in some quality time.

"When we were living at Emu Plains, a uni student called on us selling paintings. We bought a painting of a little country home on a gravel road on a corner. We had that painting for five years before we bought the property that looked like it. In January 1986 we moved to Lumleys Lane having bought the property from Les and Lilley Edwards. We were the second owners. It was a hidden little place and we knew nothing then about the plans for the Pacific Highway bypass of Wardell. The house had been built in 1947 with tea tree timber that was milled off the land. The milling was done up at the Coolgardie Sawmill. The timber was then brought back down the hill and the house was built by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the Edwards. We lived there for 21 years and built verandas, sheds and poured concrete and extended the place. We loved it! By 2004 we put a swimming pool in. The recycled timber that we brought in from a fuel depot that we bought to create a nursery site went into the summerhouse out there. We had got it up to the stage where it was almost finished as a family home – the way we wanted it. In 2005 we finished the project in January and were on cloud nine until December when the highway authority came to us and told us they were coming through. That's when our world started to change.

"The letting go of our home at Lumleys Lane was made a lot

easier in comparison because we lost Ben in 2007. It took me a good 12 months to compose so that I could deal with the RMS. But from 2005 to 2007 it was "Oh what are we going to do"? We felt sick in the guts, but in all that time we never tried to push it into anyone else's backyard. We took it on the chin and now we have come to term with it. Not that we agree with some of their processes. I think they chose the right route for material but not for drainage and the environment.

"I had started a little business as a handyman like my Dad. I worked out of my shed at Lumleys Lane. I had a boat which I sold to buy a little tipper with the money. I then put up a sign "Mini-loads" at the Wardell BP when Sue and John Wardrobe owned it. I bought an old backhoe and then a bobcat and it started from there. But I was always landscape orientated. We did the earthworks with old machinery and slowly worked our way into better machinery. I needed a depot for materials because it was hard doing jobs when you only had a small amount of material on hand. So we bought this old fuel depot at 45 Bath Street and made a business out of it in 1994.

"Local people started ringing and we delivered the goods. That grew into a little sand-soil-gravel depot cum nursery. The back block, which is 51 Bath Street, was a fertilizer depot that I worked in thirty years ago with Frank Morton. 12 years ago the owners said that if I ever wanted to buy the block, to give them a yell. So we bought that block as well. Then when the highway authority came to us and bought our Lumleys Lane property we bought the house next to the nursery. So we became the first owners to own the whole lot since the break up of the property into separate blocks. The nursery started in the late nineties. Gayle was getting kids to school"

"And I was studying horticulture too" said Gayle.

"I built some hot houses for Gayle out at Lumleys, and she grew plants," said Peter. I used those plants in my landscaping work. Then when we finished doing that and bought this place in Bath Street, we saw the opportunity to develop this nursery. Gayle had done her horticulture certificate by then. That's when we kicked off the nursery full time.

"We recently bought a hundred acre farm at Busbys Flat which is south-west of Casino. It will probably run twenty head of cattle. I have never owned cattle before.

"I have done a lot of rural work," said Peter. "Fencing, setting up crushes, troughs, roofs over cattle yards. I've built cattle yards, put slabs down for them, built driveways – and now we've done that all again for ourselves. We have a little retreat. The property has dams and a creek, timber, a sandstone quarry, a cabin and a sealed road frontage. It has given us a purpose again after Lumleys Lane.

"Community wise we have helped over the road here at the Sport & Recreation Club. We shaped all the golf tees and greens. We were involved over

about four years with the grounds trust. Now I feel that you need to semi retire in order to retire. Having the farm is another activity that is good for the mind and the soul. You can't just stop; you have to have something to go on with to keep you going forward. Work wise I've built up a good clientele. I have worked on some of the same properties for several different owners around the local area. We still supply small loads and big loads. We don't advertise and most of our business comes from word of mouth. The trick with anything is to be Fair and Just and know your Game. Then you have no problems. We work in with most people anyway and we have a good working relationship with the local Aboriginal people. We've acquired trucks and machinery to do any work we need to but these days I'm pretty selective about the work I do." said Peter

"Ben was close. He wrote beautiful poetry. He was a very soulful boy. He was very spiritual and was very advanced for this world and you can tell that in his poetry. We would like to share one of his poems."

Gayle & Peter Moore

The double rainbow

I walked along the man made surface
Searching for stillness from within
The morning rain had already fallen
A new day was about to begin
There was a rainbow in the mist
It doubled and formed a twin
I had only seen this a handful of times
A new day was about to begin
Happiness was all around me
On others faces smiles it did bring
But most of all things great and small
Was that I was happy from within.

Author Ben Moore