

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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Wardell Rural Fire Brigade Gets A New Fire Truck



The Isuzu 4x4 Crew Cab fire truck on the left has served the Wardell Fire Brigade well for a number of years in combatting fires in Ballina Shire, Byron, Richmond Valley and Warrumbungle Shires. It has been used for flood relief in Brisbane and Tweed Heads and attended traffic accidents in the local area and along the Pacific Highway. It has been reassigned to another brigade within Ballina Shire where many more years of service can be expected from this versatile vehicle.

On 7 September 2012, the Wardell Brigade received its new truck - the one on the right. It too is an Isuzu 4x4 with a 6 cylinder OHC turbo diesel 7790cc engine. It has a 3500 litre galvanised steel water tank. It comes fitted with radio communications and with live hose-reels, canvas hoses, knapsacks, rake-hoes, drip torches and extinguishers. For crew protection there are ring sprays to pump water over the cab and over each wheel.

The truck has excellent cross country capability and satellite navigation that will help crews traverse unfamiliar country tracks and city streets.

Wardell Brigade began back in 1974 when disastrous floods devastated the area. Then, in October of that year, the village was threatened by a major bush fire and twenty local residents decided to form a Bush Fire Brigade. Ray Collyer was the founding President. He is the current Captain, having spent several years as an executive officer of the RFS. He and current President David Judge are members of the original founding crew. Trevor Stoker was then with the SES and joined the Brigade soon after. There are now about 30 active members of the Brigade over the age of 18 years.

New recruits of either sex are encouraged to visit the Brigade Fire Station on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm. Members are trained to be fully operational firefighters before going into action with a qualified crew leader. Fighting fires in Ballina and Richmond Valley Shires is the main objective of the Brigade, but opportunities arise for volunteer crews to be sent to the aid of other States in times of emergency.

Go to <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> for advice on how to prepare your property for the forthcoming fire season.

Growing up in Wardell

A conversation between Norman Parry and Barry Johnson

Norman Parry. “I was about nine years old when war broke out. The war was in Europe and I don’t suppose we kids took it seriously. Although a lot of blokes were going away as soldiers, it wasn’t until Japan went into the war that we took it as a serious matter.

At the Wardell School they built an air-raid shelter in the form of a zigzag trench between the school and St Barnabas Church near the ‘weather sheds’. The parents and the Council did some work on preparing the trench. The teacher Mr Bonser had a plan that if he blew a certain signal on his whistle, then we would all jump into the trench. One day he did just that. In the middle of a class, almost a year later, he blew the signal and we all knew what it was and went and jumped into the trench.”

Barry Johnson. “I have at home a letter issued by the Police Department in 1942, when the Japs came in, that all adults had to have their firearms ready at all times but that they were not to shoot at anyone descending by parachute until the identity of the parachutist was known in case they were our own. It was issued by the local Police Officer, Clifton, who signed it. When it got really serious there was a big active unit of the VDC in the Hall. There were boxes and boxes of .303 rifles there. They pulled the lids off the boxes and said “Here – take one, take one, take one.” They were handing them out. All you had to do was sign a form. I was there one day when Lewis Ford was doing it and they were handing them out to anyone who was in the VDC. They also had two Vickers Machine Guns in Arthur Payne’s shed and I was there one day when Lewis Ford was laying the ammunition in a box. He told me that he had to do it each week in case there was a blockage in the belts or something. I was also out at the rifle range out here when they were using them.”

Norman Parry. “There was a Micky McCombe and a Tom White. Mick used to play football and cricket. They both used to go to the pub on a Saturday afternoon to have a drink. This Saturday afternoon he was in there drinking with Dusty Miller, myself and Collin Watkins. There might have been five or six of us there. Mick’s girl friend Dorothy Ramsey was in the same class as I was at high school in Ballina. Mick was going to take his girl to the movies on Saturday night. Anyway Dusty said “Why don’t we jack this truck up and see what happens?” So Dusty went to see Mick and said ‘Hey Mick could I have a lend of your jack, I need to check a tyre out here?’ Mick said “Yes that’s OK it’s in the back of the truck – go and get it.” Dusty got the jack out of the back of the truck and put it under the truck then jacked the truck up. Billy Thomson’s sitting back there all innocent like. Mick comes out and says that he’s running late. He starts the truck and revs the engine but the truck won’t go. He says, “I don’t know what’s wrong. I can start the engine but the truck won’t go.” Dorothy said later that he was mumbling and cursing all night and they never did see the movie. He was too cranky. What upset him most was the fact that it was his own jack that they had used.”

Barry Johnson. “I was in one of the boats in the 54 flood. In front of Frank Meaney’s house there used to be two big fig trees. We left there in the ferryboat to take bread over to the other side. There were four of us – one on each oar. We pushed off from there and we never hit the other side until we reached Mick Kelly’s on the corner of Carneys Lane! It was running that fast. Then we pulled up the river on the other side of the mangroves. That’s the first and only time I’ve seen water running around the step of the Wardell Hotel. It came up from the river and ran around the step. It didn’t enter the pub but it was almost there. That was the 54 flood. There was a man up the road called Mick Lumley who had a little green utility. He didn’t mind a beer on a cold day! He’d come in, and he’d say, “I don’t want to get my feet wet.” So he’d back his ute up into the verandah of the pub, get out of the cab into the back of the ute then onto the cement of the pub. He never got his feet wet.

Norman Parry. “They were scared that the weight of the water hyacinth could break the ferry cable or damage the punt (ferry) and they wanted volunteers (who would be paid by the hour) to clear the weed. But then one of the cables broke and they said it was too dangerous to clear the hyacinth. The punt was tied up so it was safe. There was a rumoured story that there was a cow, floating on the water hyacinth in the river. They reckon she was chewing her cud whilst floating down the river. When she got to Ballina she got washed out to sea. She then swam ashore and walked up the beach.

“In those days the river was full of fish. When a punt was coming in, it would come up against the bank and there would be prawns everywhere. So we would get all the prawns we could, put them in a billy and boil it while we were working loading cane and then we would eat the cooked prawns. There were plenty of fish around including hopping mullet. We’d put a light on a boat at night and the mullet would just hop into the boat. It was legal then although there was a bag limit.

“Ernie Chapman was the barber here. He used to come with me for hopping mullet. The big ones used to miss the boat, which is just as well because if they hit you, they hit you pretty hard. Ernie used to hold the torch but rowing the boat was the harder part – quite often it was against the tide.”

Barry Johnson. “If you were having your hair cut with Ernie Chapman, you sometimes had to wait half way through a hair cut because he had 20 litre drum floats set out in the river baited for sharks. He could see the floats from his salon and if he saw a float bobbing he’d be off. Sometimes he’d leave the float on the wharf and he’d hear it rattling along the wharf when a shark took the bait and he’d be after it. He’d be cutting your hair and if he saw or heard the float go off, he’d be gone – leaving your hair half cut.” (recorded by Mike Rushby)



Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club Ltd

Telephone 6683 4437

During the last two months, a lot has happened at the club, both good and bad. The tool shed was broken into with tools, a tool box and a brush cutter/whipper snipper stolen. The combined value of this loss to the community is around \$2,000. What is particularly disappointing about the event is that Wardell and the surrounding area has lost out. These items were bought with money from the golf club players' green fees for the maintenance of the community facilities.

The club's footy tipping competition has been completed with the conclusion of the home and away rounds. The winner was Larry Endres. He beat over 60 participants to win the prize money. The competition was rounded off with a party where a good time was had by all.

Golf has been played on Sunday mornings with a variety of competitions and winners. Lots of fun is had by all those involved and many come back week after week for more.

Our club is open daily and every Friday night for meals, drinks and raffles, and we have a seafood night on Saturday the 20th of October.

The Recreation Club's AGM will be held around the 27th of October. All members of the club and community are welcome to come and join in. Membership of the club costs \$10.00 per person and is due by 1 October. It costs a further \$20:00 to become a member of the golf club.

Kerry Storton

What does a Registered Nurse doon her night off?



She turns out with the Wardell Fire Brigade and helps put out the fire in a burning semi-trailer on the Pacific Highway of course!

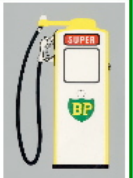
Phill's Philosophy.

A life spent helping others is a life worth living!

Wardell Service Station
for all your fuel, newspapers, take-away
foods and convenience store items.

Cooking until 7.00 pm

Phillip and Ann Read. Telephone 6683 4252



Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation held its September hoy afternoon on a beautiful Spring day. Numbers were down due to illness. Proceeds from the afternoon were donated to the Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service. Some members of the Brigade attended the meeting and gave us informative talks. The PLCO appreciates the voluntary work they do.

We are very happy to see our secretary Elaine Coleman back to good health and we welcomed to the meeting young Irish writer Nichola Flynn who is staying in Pimlico whilst writing a book. She stepped in to help with the running of the meeting and her efforts were much appreciated.

The October meeting will be held on the first Monday with the usual bus to bring visitors from Ballina. The proceeds will benefit Ballina SES.

The October meeting will celebrate 52 years since the PLCO commenced. After all these years there are still three founder members who attend our meetings - Olive Creighton, Betty Whitney and Betty Fernance.

Many prizes were won during the afternoon with the main prize going to Carol Manning of Ballina.

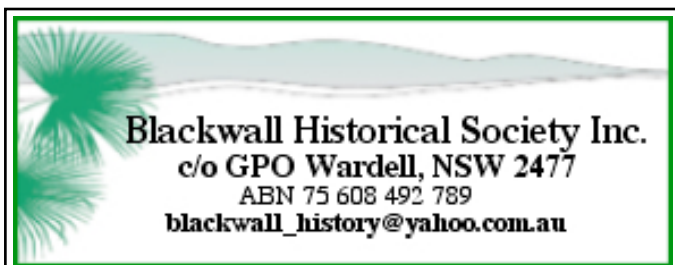
On the Land

The August rainfall was very light with only 4 ½ mm falling in a single storm. I have been keeping records since 1976 and August this year has been by far the driest August in all those years.

Cane farmers are making the most of the dry weather to prepare their land for planting. If rain doesn't fall soon it will be too dry to plant. Last year so much rain fell it was difficult to work the land. Many of the farmers that did plant found their seed cane was rotting in the ground.

Betty Fernance

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.



The Blackwall Historical Society collects and records the history of the people and events of the area from South Ballina to Boundary Creek and the lower Richmond including Meerschaum Vale, Cabbage Tree Island, Bagotville, Back Channel, Wardell, Coolgardie and Pimlico.

The research room at the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall is open every Thursday between 1 and 3pm. The Society welcomes volunteers and new members. A scanner and printer are available for anyone wishing to donate a copy of their family's history to the society.

The next General Meeting of the Society is to be held in the Digger's Room of the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall on Thursday 4 October 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Everybody's History Matters.
 Telephone Barbara - 6687 9573



The August General Meeting of the Wardell and District Progress Assn. was held in the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall. All the candidates standing for election as Mayor of Ballina Shire and as councillors for C Ward had been invited to address the meeting and it was very pleasing to see that about 50 district residents had turned up to welcome them.

The candidates addressed the meeting and were then invited to respond to questions raised by the audience covering subjects as diverse as the rights of farmers to farm, coal seam gas and the health of the Richmond River.



Cr David Wright, who has served six terms on Council representing C Ward and who has previously held the office of both Mayor and Deputy Mayor on several occasions has been elected to replace Cr Phillip Silver who is retiring as Mayor. The successful candidates elected as Councillors for A Ward are Sue Meehan, Robyn Hordern and Ken Johnston: for B Ward; Sharon Cadwallader, Jeff Johnson and Keith Williams. Councillors elected to C Ward are Paul Worth, Keith Johnson and Ben Smith.

All candidates are to be congratulated for having the courage to stand for election and for being willing to take on responsibility on behalf of the community. Most citizens were concerned for the outcome of this election because they all have a personal stake in the future of this place. Our Councillors have in the past shown great interest in the maintenance of a high standard of living in the Wardell district and have regularly attended meetings of the Wardell and District Progress Association. The Progress Association is probably the best forum for members of the community to raise issues that would benefit the whole of our area and we look forward to continuing our close relationship with the newly elected Council.

Pat Carney, President Wardell and District Progress Association.

Let's do it!

For some years Baz and Shelly Clifford have been thinking about running their own business. They looked around Ballina and the surrounding areas but decided upon their hometown of Wardell. They wanted a café-style take away business rather than a general store and they found it here in Wardell right in the very place where Shelly had worked for Beth and Doug Flick 15 years ago. In July, after 5 weeks cleaning and renovating the premises, they opened the "Wardell Café & Takeaway."



Situated in Richmond Street, opposite the hotel and adjacent to the Wardell Post Office, the café is conveniently located near the river bank and the new wharf. Hungry recreational fishermen and women often pop in for 'fish and chips' and then return another day for more of the same. Coffee is a speciality and Shelly, who is qualified as a barista and who sources her coffee from Alstonville, has installed a commercial coffee machine to produce the perfect brew.

Baz and Shelly say that they have had glowing reports on the quality of their hamburgers, delicious chicken kebabs and an array of fried foods. They also take pride in offering good quality homestyle food.

Some young people call the Wardell Café & Takeaway "The Lolly Shop" which they walk past on their way to and from school. But it is much more than that. Shelly and Baz have installed a selection of amusement machines to test the talents of young and old. The games room is a place where young people can exercise their skills and bond with others in a safe environment.

The front area of the shop is a lounge area where visitors can relax and enjoy a large range of hot food, cold drinks and ice creams. "You will always be greeted with a warm smile here!" say Baz and Shelly.

Opening hours are: Monday - Friday 10 am to 8 pm

Saturday - Sunday 10 am to 4 pm

The Wardell Cafe & Take Away
Telephone 6683 4818

Boat Cruise Ballina to Wardell (return) on the Richmond Princess

Sat 17 November 9.00 am - 3.00 pm
(approx.)

Enjoy our river and find out some of its history.
Morning tea and light lunch provided.

Passengers may disembark for a short while at
the Wardell wharf.

Tickets \$50 p.p. from Sue at Wardell P.O. or
Telephone Pat Carney at 6683 4360

Sue's Kitchen

Mango Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 small lettuce
- 1 red onion sliced
- 1 small red capsicum
- 3 cubed mangoes
- ½ cup crushed macadamias
- 3 tblspn lime juice
- 3 tblspn brown sugar

Method

Gently toss first five ingredients together.

Mix lime juice and brown sugar.

When ready to serve sprinkle dressing
over salad.

(An alternate dressing may be
Balsamic Dressing).



I found this one
in Cairns last
week. Yum!
Delicious!

Sue F

"Sue Wardrobe's tree" on page 4, is a South American tree. It is the national tree of Venezuela - identified by Shaun Lindsay and Gayle Moore as *Tabebuia chrysantha*. It is growing behind the Wardell Post Office.



Patches Beach Dunecare members were happy to receive almost 200 young trees carefully selected by Ballina Shire Council for their suitability for exposed coastal sand dunes. Planet Ark has been promoting the National Tree Day since 1996. Trees are planted with water crystals to provide a reserve supply of water and they are mulched, protected by wire cages and nurtured until established by members of the Dunecare group.

At Patches Beach the trees are planted to stabilise the dunes, to add to the beauty of the area and to provide habitat for endangered wild life. Started in 1988 by the late Ted Patch and Les Vomiero, the group coordinator is now retired engineer Peter Lacey. It is rumoured that some of the members only turn up to enjoy the refreshments provided by Kath Lacey, but in truth a lot of work continues to be done by the volunteers and the Patches Beach area is testimony to their dedicated work.



Zak plants a tree that should grow with him.



Some of the regular Dune Care members pause for a well earned refreshment break. From left to right:- Helen, Robyn, Zak, Gary, Peter, Michael and Glenda. (Bob Jackson & Father Tom were away on other duties)

Ivy Carter. Continued from page 8.

"When I went out to pick him up that afternoon, he wasn't there. I had to go looking for him and found him sitting under a tree. He'd got himself up as far as the side of the road so that I would be able to find him. He said the accident had happened down the gully but he had got himself up to the road dragging his chainsaw with him. We got him to hospital that night, not knowing whether he would survive or not. He pulled through and came back to this house to live with us. He was 88 when he died in 1985.

"I joined the Red Cross during the war and have been Secretary and Treasurer of the local branch a few times. I haven't been attending meetings recently because I have other commitments on a Wednesday when they meet.

"Tim and I used to go to church at Palmers Channel before we were married. I was born a Methodist and I joined the Methodist Church here in Wardell when we moved to Back Channel. The Elder family, who once lived here in this house, donated the block next door to the Methodist Church so when we moved here, it was handy because the church was on the next block – just a short walk away. We used to have a weekly service, and then it was held every second Sunday. Sadly, this little church is now closed.

"I never learnt to dance, I always thought I had two left feet, but Tim used to go to bowls at Broadwater. I was never keen on sport but I've always taken a great interest in knitting and craftwork. I used to make all our own clothes including Tim's work clothes. I never really bought anything ready made in those days. My Grandmother Fraser was a great sewer and I seem to have inherited her skills.

"My husband Tim died in 1975 when he was only 59 years old and since then I've just been living here. I have a family that is still good to me. I miss my husband but don't dwell on it. Harry Law's mother was my best friend – she was a lovely person. Tim and Harry senior were good mates too when they worked together in the cane. When I first knew Kit, Harry junior was just going to high school.

"I can't really complain about anything in my life. I've never felt like walking out on anything so far. The biggest hurdle was getting over Tim's death. We knew his heart was bad, but he went to bed at eight o'clock and at four o'clock he was dead. That was so sudden. It took a lot of getting over. There have been a few bumps along the way but life is what you make it. I have family that I love. I like living in this community and I have friends I can rely on."

Ivy Carter

The Wardell Red Cross





Branch President
Ruth Partridge 6628 5751
Meetings
1st Wednesday of the month
Wardell Memorial Hall
9.30 a.m.
New members always welcome.

Australian Red Cross



Above left: Hand crafted jewellery was just one stall of many that attracted the visitors. Above: Gayle Baker and Doris Campbell give a warm welcome to the Trading Table.

The annual Wardell Red Cross Arts and Craft Show was once again a success. Leading up to this event, members spent days cooking a variety of traditional cakes, biscuits and slices. Homemade jams and pickles proved popular on our trading table too. The hall was filled with a variety of stalls with crafts for any occasion on view and for sale.

Visitors attending on this bright sunny day were treated to traditional homemade refreshments that Red Cross is renowned for across the country. Our raffle again proved very popular with our visitors. The members would like to thank our raffle sponsors, Flight North for a joy flight, Paddy Goff, for the bird bath and Vicki and Don Turner from T`Star Sports for the donation of Ugg slippers. Thanks also to all our members and friends for their help.

Weeks of organisation by Monica Vomiero, the Vice President, certainly contributed to a happy community event.

Jane Sproule

That's Life. Ivy Monica Carter

speaking with Mike Rushby

"My Grandfather, Thomas Maher, was a cedar cutter in the Alstonville area. He was married to Christina Schmidt. My father, John Cullen Maher, was born at Deadman's Creek on 28 June 1897. He moved to Dorriggo with his parents when he was four years old. Soon after, Thomas was hauling timber up the mountainside from Bellingen to Dorriggo. The timber was to be used to build their house. But the bullock team went off the track and over the side, rolling down the mountain. Thomas was killed. When John grew up he became a butcher for a while for Maher Brothers in Dorriggo then started dairy farming as a share farmer. My mother, Ivy Fraser, was born at Gunning, which is between Goulburn and Yass. There were four of us kids in the family. I was the eldest having been born in January 1923. My little brother was the next born but he died when only a few hours old. Then I had two sisters Eileen and Hazel. I spent most of my younger days on dairy farms. From Dorriggo we went to a farm at Glenferneigh between Grafton and Armidale.

"They had no school or anything at Glenferneigh so Mum was my teacher and I had correspondence lessons for three years from Blackfriars in Sydney. Then they started a provisional school at Glenferneigh. The teacher boarded at a house and the parents clubbed together to pay her board, which was about three or four shillings a week per family. The school grew and eventually became a public school with about twenty-five students. That is where I finished my education at the age of fourteen. I never got to high school because there was no way of getting there. We didn't have a car and school buses weren't even thought of. The teacher taught up to sixth class then we had correspondence courses. I did the QC, which was the Qualifying Certificate. That qualified me to go to high school except there was no high school for me to go to.

"Dad was working in the timber at that time falling logs for the mill. I stayed at home with Mum and my sisters. We used to trap rabbits for pocket money. We'd set the traps in the afternoon and Dad and I would go around the traps about nine o'clock at night and collect the rabbits. We would sell the rabbit skins for one shilling and threepence a pound (13c). That was divided between the three of us. There were no shops around and we had no transport so the money was of no consequence. The closest shop was Dorriggo and the driver of the cream lorry, who called on all the farms, would collect whatever we needed.

"Dad then started cutting timber at Cloud's Creek, which was nearer to Grafton, and I went to work at one of the houses there for a couple of years. Tyringham was another little place – a bit bigger than Wardell and it had a shop. That was four or five miles away. That was a long way in those days as no one had a car. We'd have to walk as we only got a bicycle later. I learnt to knit when I was eight and we did all our own knitting and sewing. We were dairy farmers at Palmers Channel and that is where I met my future husband Tim at a Sunday School picnic. I was seventeen. We kept company for about five years and then we moved to a dairy farm near Ulmarra on the Clarence. We used to milk by hand because there were no milking machines. It was a couple of years before we got milking machines.

"Tim Carter and I were married at the Ulmarra Methodist Church. His people had a dairy farm at Palmers Channel and he and his brother worked the farm. Tim and I rented a little cottage there. It was a dairy and cane-farming district. Then Tim's brother Harry went away to the war. After he came back he couldn't settle to the farm work and sold the farm. It was then that Mum and Dad came over here to Tucki.

"Dad was getting pretty old and needed someone to help with the farm so Tim and I moved with them and worked for Mum and Dad for about three years. Our first child Barry was born when we were at Palmers Channel in 1947. Anne, our daughter, was born in Lismore in 1949. By then we had moved to another house at Tucki. Tim and I started working on our own. We had a big box in a spare bail in the dairy so that when



Ivy Carter 2012

we were milking the cows, I would put our children, Barry and Anne, into the box with their toys, to keep them out of harms way. Barry started school at the Tucki School when he was five years old.

"We got our first car when we were at Tucki. I learnt to drive there and went down to see the Woodburn police to get my licence. The policeman got me to drive him out to the Woodburn cemetery then back to the Police Station. That was my driving test. I used to drive to Lismore and Grafton from time to time. After Tim died, I drove to wherever it was needed but I don't drive very far now.

"We used to separate our milk. The carrier collected the cream and we fed the skimmed milk to our pigs. In 1956 we got flooded out. The house was raised on five-foot high stumps on the edge of the Tuckean Swamp but the water still came up three feet in the house. We had moved our cattle up to higher ground where Mum and Dad were. We had a sow that was just about to have a litter of piglets but Tim went into the sty and put a rope around her and swam her out of the water. He put her in a sty at Mum and Dad's place and she had her little pigs that night. I didn't know Tim was going to do that - he could have been drowned.

"However the flood killed all the grass and there was nothing left to farm with so we moved to a share farm at Teven. That didn't work out. It was an unproductive farm and we only stopped there six months and then moved to Back Channel, at Wardell, where we were share-farming out where Con Melino's farm is at the end of Back Channel past Law's Point. Reg Johnston owned the farm then. Barry and Anne went to school in Wardell. They rode their bikes the five kilometres to school except on the days the cream carrier called. He would put their bikes on the back of his truck. So Monday, Wednesday and Friday they would get a lift one way. After school, they would collect the mail of the people who lived along Backchannel, from the post office and do a mail run on the way home. Barry and Anne later went on to Ballina High School. When they finished school, Anne worked at the mill and Barry worked at Felch's service station in Cherry Street Ballina.

"We left Back Channel when we bought a small farm at the back of the caravan park at the Wardell end of Pimlico Road. There was no caravan park there then – it was a pineapple plantation. We grew pineapples there and sold them by the side of the road. Tim also worked in the sugar cane industry from then on and we bought this farm off Pimlico Road, pulled down our old cottage and added it to this house. So the room in which we are now sitting was our old two-roomed cottage from the other side of the road. Dad and Tim built it. When Mum died, Dad came and lived with us.

"We used to drive out to Bagotville and take Dad to work every morning and then pick him up in the evening. He was about 75 years old and used to cut posts. He had an accident one day and cut his arm with the chain saw. He hit a vine with the saw, which swung and caught his arm.

-continued Page 7