

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

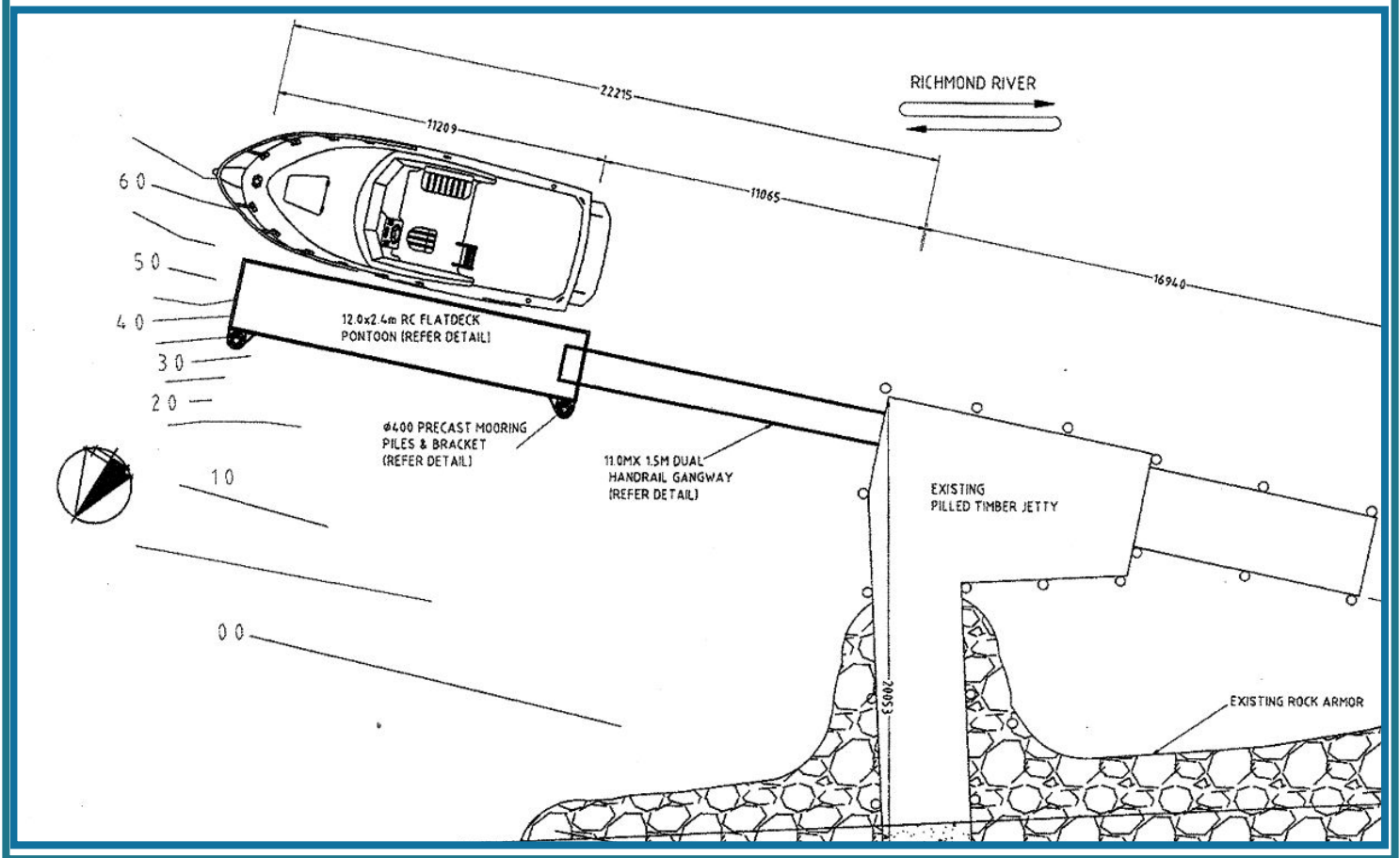
Wardell Community Centre, 9 Sinclair Street, Wardell NSW 2477

Issue # 14 October 2011

blackwall-bugle@bigpond.com

Telephone 02 6683 4561

A New Pontoon for the Wardell Jetty



To complement the new wharf at Wardell, the Progress Association has negotiated with the Ballina Shire Council to commission a pontoon for boaties to come ashore.

This has been made possible through a \$1m town improvement program and grant, initiated by Council and strongly supported by C Ward Councillors David Wright, Keith Johnson and Ben Smith. Other recent improvements under the program include the new wharf, footpaths, street lights, BBQ and playground as well as improvement in the town's gardens.

Council Civil Services Group Manager John Truman has indicated that the pontoon could be in place soon, subject to the regulatory bodies approving the installation, as well as contractor progress.

**Pat Carney, President - Wardell and District
Progress Association Inc.**

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

Sat 15th October 9.30 am - 3.00 pm (approx.)

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

Tickets \$50 p.p. from Sue at Wardell P.O.



Helping Hands

By Mahli Borham, Year 6

Photograph by

Jonah Grant, Year 6

It's impossible to ignore the terrible images coming from the African Continent relating to their drought. Endless amounts of people walking hundreds of kilometres simply to get food and water. Do you want to help but feel that you don't know how? The Senior Students at Empire Vale School may provide the answer!

The year 5/6 class is having a 'Cakeless' cake stall, where we are asking the community to donate either the money they would contribute to buying a cake or the money that equals the cost of the ingredients of baking a cake to the drought appeal. We have decided to make it a 'Cakeless' cake stall as it seems unfair for us to enjoy pies and cakes, whilst so many are going hungry.

Not only will your donation make you feel good about helping, it's low fuss and 100% fat free!

It will also make a huge difference to many people in East Africa! Please dig deep into your pockets and send your donations to: The Senior Class, Empire Vale Primary School. River Drive, Empire Vale. 2478. All donations will be accounted for and forwarded to the 'Red Cross East Africa Drought Appeal.' Thank you.



Together we can make a difference.



WARDELL PUBLIC SCHOOL "Learning is Life"

The Active Life of Wardell PS

This term the students from Wardell have had been busy with many inter-school visits and visitors. The AFL Wardell Warriors have played against Rous, Empire Vale and Cabbage Tree Island Public Schools. Although not always winners on the scoreboard, they certainly make up for that with their sportsmanship.



Our Chess and Draughts Team travelled to Rous Public School to participate in a day of competition with neighbouring schools. Each school elected 8 students to represent them.

Fire Safety NSW made 3 visits to our School with some hands on 'dialing 000' and practicing 'get down low and go, go, go!' The fire truck was brought in for some up-close observation.



Education week culminated with our annual Book Fair on August 19th. Lots of books were sold and hopefully some serious readers are born.

Lyn Parker (Relieving Principal)



Wardell Community Centre

◆ 9 Sinclair Street Wardell ◆ 02 6683 4867 ◆

◆ Tuesday 12:30pm - 4:00pm ◆ Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm ◆

The community centre is really starting to buzz now with a range of new activities starting this month to help to make the WCC a truly vibrant part of our community. So get involved and keep a look out for even more news over the coming months!

If you'd like to add your service or start a new group, please contact the centre staff during opening hours, or telephone Council's Facilities Coordinator, Jordan Robinson on 0428 003 664 Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

Fancy a Game of Cards?

Members of the Wardell community who would like to meet at the WCC for a weekly game of **Euchre** in a casual and relaxed environment are encouraged to phone **Kevin Geaghan** on **0428 665 582**.

Calling all Local Writers!

Are you an inspiring or accomplished writer who would like to come together with other writers to share your work and receive peer reviews? The Writer's Group is looking at meeting once or twice a month at the Wardell Community Centre. Please phone **Kevin Geaghan** for more info on **0428 665 582**.



The Thursday Morning Stroll



The inaugural Wardell Thursday Morning Stroll will take place on **29 September at 9:30am**. If you would like to meet new people or catch up with old friends whilst taking a gentle walk around the many sites of Wardell then come on down to the centre every Thursday at 9:30am. The opportunity to revive and have a tea or coffee will be available at the centre after the stroll. Phone **Kim** on **0414 386 133** to register your interest.

Triple P Parenting Seminar

Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre Inc will be holding a **FREE Triple P Parenting Seminar Series** at the WCC.

The aim of the group is to increase parental confidence in raising children by increasing parents' competence in managing common behaviour problems and developmental issues, exploring alternative ways of disciplining children and reducing stress associated with raising children.

The seminar will run from **9:00am to 2:30pm** on **Wednesday 9 November** with free morning tea, light lunch and childminding provided.

Contact **Karen Handcock** to secure your place by phoning **02 6662 2866** or **0429 232 790**.

Regular Activities

Tuesday ~ **Alcoholics Anonymous** at 10:00am

Wednesday ~ **Youth Arvo Sessions** 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Thursday ~ **Knit 'n' Knat** 9:00am - 12:00noon

1st Wednesday of the month ~ **Book Club** at 10:00am



The community centre offers locals and visitors:

- Free internet
- Free photocopying
- Free fax
- A space to meet for groups or social get-togethers
- Use of Kitchen including free tea and coffee
- Rooms for meetings and business use

Ballina Shire Council Staff

Members of council staff are available to assist you with any enquiries in their area of expertise; they include:

Centre Staff: Teresa Gahan and Elizabeth Law

Social Planner Roberto Kenk handles youth issues, seniors issues, affordable housing, community development and more every 2nd Wednesday.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Darrell Creighton can assist with matters between the Aboriginal community and Ballina Shire Council on the alternate Wednesdays.

Cultural Development Officer Kate Gahan handles all cultural, historical and heritage matters and enquiries each Thursday.

You are invited to a

Meet & Greet Morning Tea

Local parents, carers and children are invited to attend a casual morning tea to bring local families together to meet one another and share ideas on services and activities that they would like to see delivered in the community.

SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER 2011

10am - 12pm

at the Wardell Community Centre

9 Sinclair Street, Wardell

Volunteers Welcome

Wardell Community Centre operating hours are published in the WCC notices on page 3 of the Blackwall Bugle. But sometimes the door has to be closed because work safety practices require that at least two approved persons are present to staff the premises. At least one of these persons is to be a Ballina Shire Council employee. The other person could be an authorised volunteer.

Volunteers must undertake appropriate training. They need to be responsible adults who enjoy working with the public.

Your voluntary efforts would be much appreciated because you would enable the centre to continue to provide community services. To enquire further, feel free to call in to the Wardell Community Centre and talk with Jordan or Teresa. Their contact details are on page 3.

Village Firefighters



Volunteer members of the Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service spend many hours improving their skills. Here Russell Krampe and Robert Flemming of Wardell approach a burning car behind a shield of water. Andy Collins and Sam Owen of Wardell and Andrew Monti of Bagotville also participated in the course held recently at Mullumbimby and at the Ballina Shire Council works depot. The course is designed to hone skills needed to combat house fires, vehicle fires, electrical and gas fires, dangerous liquids and chemicals. The graduates are rated as **Village Firefighters** in addition to their bush-fire skills

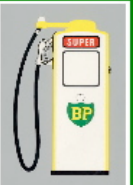
Phil's Philosophy.

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." **Tolstoy**

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



**Australian
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.

Wardell Red Cross is collecting memorabilia for the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross in 2014.

Wanted are old photos, stories, recipes, craft patterns etc. associated with the Red Cross, in particular the Wardell Branch of the Red Cross.

Please send items to PO Box 68 Wardell or contact President Ruth Partridge 6628 5751

email address is sproulefamly@bigpond.com



The footy tipping competition has been very competitive during the winter months with Al Sheather in the lead most of the season and the eventual winner.

A Motor Bike Show and Shine was held on 24th September for anyone interested in magnificent machines well presented by enthusiasts.

A Trivia night has been organised for Saturday night 8th October when the Members Reward Draw of a 43" flat screen TV with surround sound DVD system will be drawn. Second prize is a 3 in 1 stereo CD sound system. To be in the draw, members write their names on the back of the Friday night meat raffle tickets and place them in a barrel. The winner must be at the draw and a current financial member.

The Trivia will be run with tables of 6-8 persons. Everyone should bring along their own snacks.

The next Seafood Night is on the 29th October. Bookings are essential as numbers are limited.

The Melbourne Cup Calcutta will be on the 31st October. This is always a fun night with the bidding and buying of the horses.

The Children's Christmas Tree and Raffles will be on the 10th December with Santa distributing presents. Parents are asked to provide their child's present.

The Annual General Meeting of the Wardell Sporting and Recreation Club Ltd will be held on Sunday 6th November 2011. Nomination forms are available from the Club for all positions on the board.

To enquire about these activities, telephone David Daley on 66834417 or the Club 66834437. The Club is open Monday – Friday from 3.00pm. The Bistro serves meals on Friday nights from 6.00pm.

Janice Wickenden



**All dressed up with nowhere to go. Will we ever see 'our' bridge like this again?
We could rate it as an artistic as well as an engineering event!**



Ray Potter spent most of his working life in the motor industry. Now he runs a railway network. It is an absorbing hobby that he is able to share with a few dedicated enthusiasts. Ray's railway is an HO gauge system that he started to build 22 years ago. It has a layout full of realism and detail with yards and sidings for loading timber from sawmills, sheep from holding pens, wheat from silos and passengers from miniature crafted railway stations.

Ray bought some of his rolling stock, some he built from kits but most, like the scale model historical engine above, he crafted from scratch. The model railway is a multi-track system wired to a central control board with landscaping constructed from styrene and plaster and trees made from sticks and dyed cotton wool. To complement the railway there are model trucks, tractors and cars. There are miniature 'people' waiting for trains, herding sheep, loading freight trucks and pushing wheel barrows.

Ray's railway system is a fascinating journey back into history.

Pimlico Railway

Deep in the heart of Pimlico, Ray Potter attends to his railway whenever he can make the time in his busy day. "You need to develop an interest in things early in life that hold your attention through your retirement years," he said.





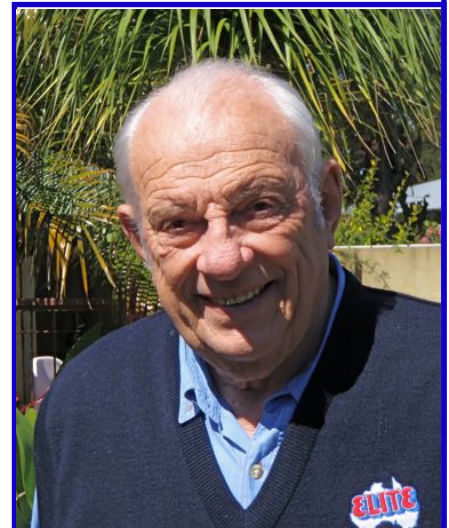
Kevin Geaghan's Elite Carpet Cleaning Business

Kevin Geaghan is a country boy at heart having been raised in Barraba in Northern New South Wales. But he married his wife Shirley whom he met in Tamworth and together they moved to Sydney where Kevin became deeply involved in the funeral directing business for fifteen years. Kevin then opened Kevin Geaghan Funerals in Ballina and was a member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association. The 'Bugle' has heard many comments of appreciation for his caring support of grieving families.

Kevin and his wife came to live in Wardell and bought the Elite Carpet Cleaning franchise for their daughter and son-in-law. But changes in family circumstances saw Kevin taking over the franchise which he operates from Wardell covering the Northern Rivers area from Tyagrah to Evans Head and west to the ranges.

Kevin uses one full time operator and three experienced part time assistants. A dry carpet cleaning method is used as it gives the most thorough clean. It will leave the carpets feeling soft and looking great. An added bonus is not having to wait days for carpets to dry, you can walk on them right away and they will be completely dry in 2 hours. Special non-toxic stain removers can be used to remove coffee, red-wine and other common stains.

Kevin's staff also specialise in post-flood work - be it a natural disaster or an overflowing bath tub that has caused the problem - fabric and leather upholstery cleaning, mattress cleaning, carpet protection and odour removal.



To make enquiries, to book a service or to get a free quote, telephone Kevin at:

131 580

Sue's Kitchen



Hard Timers Biscuits (Morning tea for shearers)

3 cups SR Flour	1 tblspn Syrup or Honey
125 gm Butter	1 Egg
½ cup Sugar	½ cup Milk
¾ cup Sultanas	} or 1½ cups Mixed Fruit
¾ cup chopped dates }	

Directions:
 Rub butter into flour. Add syrup and fruits.
 Mix with combined Egg & Milk & Honey.
 Roll out and cut with scone cutter.
 Bake in moderate oven for about 20 minutes.

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The September charity afternoon arranged by the Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation was held on the first Monday of Spring and attracted visitors from afar. Proceeds from the afternoon will be forwarded to the Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service who lead a very busy life attending to fires and incidents night and day. Recently a stolen car was dumped in Pimlico and set alight. The car burnt out and the nearby cane was set alight. In no time members of the Wardell Brigade were at the scene and put out the fire - much to the cane farmer's relief.

Ray Collyer, the Captain of the Wardell Brigade attended the afternoon accompanied by Mike Rushby and Michael Heugh. Ray gave an interesting talk on the activities of the Brigade.

The main prize of the afternoon was won by Ballina visitor Betty Schieb. The variety stall was well stocked with produce, flowers and pickles grown by Jill and Betty. We thank Brigitte for her donations of handicraft.

The October afternoon will be held on the first Monday in October commencing at 1.30 pm. The bus from Ballina will leave at the usual time. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Ballina S.E.S.

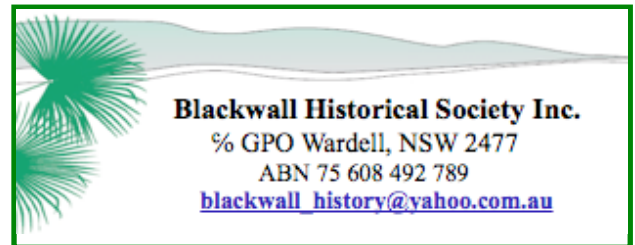
The Pimlico Hall has had a facelift with new entrances to the side door and back door. Earlier in the year a new front door including wheel chair access was installed. We get many visitors from Ballina nursing homes who appreciate the new arrangements.

During August, 186 millimetres of rain fell on Pimlico with the heaviest fall being 100 millimetres on 20 August.

Betty Fernance.



Church	Services	Contact
St Barnabas	1 st Sunday 5.30 pm 2 nd & 3 rd 7.30 am	Fay Daley
St Patrick's	Every Sunday 5.30 pm	Sister Larelle
Uniting	1 st & 3 rd Sundays 8.00 am	Marie Harrison



The next meeting of the Blackwall Historical Society is on Thursday 6 October, at 7pm in the Diggers Room at the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall.

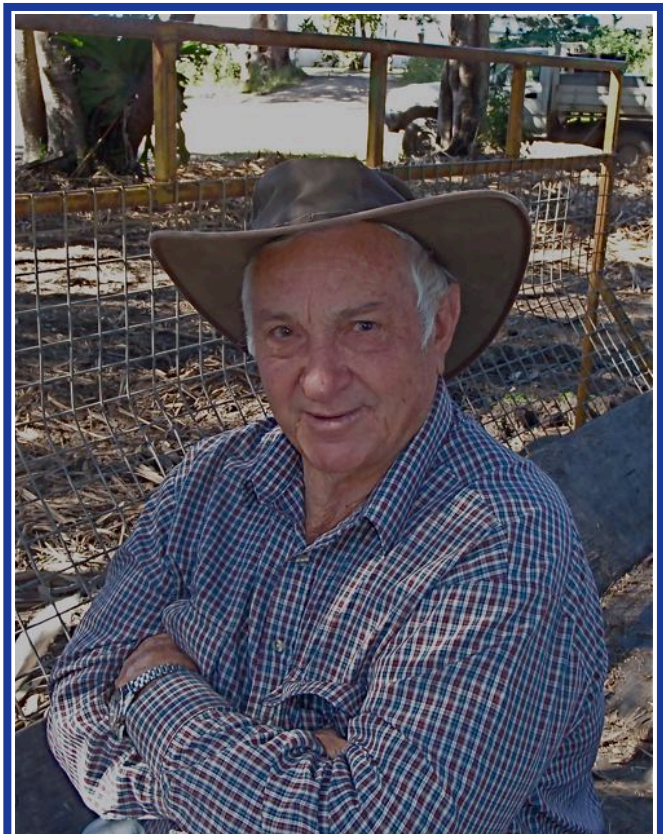
On the second Thursday of each month, the office will be open from 1 to 3pm for anyone interested in research. We need volunteers to help with archiving.

For further information please contact:

Margaret 66 860027 or Lorraine 66 834358.

The geographical area of interest to The Blackwall Historical Society includes Wardell, Coolgardie, Pimlico, East Wardell, Empire Vale, Keith Hall, South Ballina, Patches Beach, Boundary Creek, Meerschaum Vale, Cabbage Tree Island, Back Channel and Bagotville.

"We know we cannot live in the past but the past lives with us." Charles Perkins



Trevor Monti - see page 8.

The Deadline for 'Bugle' #15 is Friday 18 November 2011.
To download previous publications of the "Blackwall Bugle", Google 'Wardell Community Centre'

A Labour of Love

Trevor Monti speaks with Mike Rushby

"My Grandmother's people came from Italy on the ill-fated Marquis de Ray Expedition that landed in New France to the south of New Guinea in 1880. Through starvation and tropical disease, about 70 of the adventurers died but about 200 survivors made it to Australia. My Grandmother was born soon after the survivors arrived. I think she was born at Young where her parents were sent as fruit-pickers. Her name was Elizabeth Antonelli. Many of the new arrivals then moved to an area of undeveloped land near Woodburn that they called "New Italy". Out at New Italy now there is a place they call "The Wine Shop." That's where Elizabeth's parents lived. Their home was upstairs with the wine shop below. I think they might have been fined for selling illegal wine. My father was born in the old building they called 'The Mud House.'

"My Grandfather Dr Silvio Monti was born in Turino, Italy, on 20 November 1863. He was the son of Dr Giovanni Battista and Candida Monti. He obtained his MD and ChD degrees from Modena University and practiced in Italy for several years before migrating to Australia. In Woodburn he set up his practice, which included New Italy and later extended to Broadwater and to Cabbage Tree Island. Many elderly people in this area today probably came into the world aided by Dr Monti who was also the accredited physician to the Broadwater Mill. He died in 1937 – the year I was born, but his wife died 24 years later in 1961.

"Dr Monti and his wife had six children one of whom was my father Silvio junior who was born in 1901. He was a bright student at school and went on to Hawkesbury Agricultural College where he became the State dux in Cheese Making, Butter Making and Herd Testing. In 1925 he cleared land at Bagotville and commenced farming. He married May Fischer from Chatsworth Island in June 1925 and they raised three daughters - Beryl (1926)(Mrs Patch), Edna (1927)(Mrs Nugent) and Stella (1929)(Mrs Capelin). I was the only son. I hardly knew my father because he died suddenly at the age of 38 when I was 2 years old. It was left to my mother to raise the family and run the farm during the hard years of World War II.

"I was born in 1937 shortly before the outbreak of War. Our banana crops had been devastated by bunchy top disease. We were very poor. When my father died, my mother had to convince the authorities that she could support us for over a year – otherwise they would have arranged for us to go to a home. There was no social security. I didn't know, until recently, that our neighbour – Lewis Ford – was in the throws of adopting me in the event I was to be sent to a home. His daughter only told me this about three years ago. I wish I had known before he died. They talk about the lost generation: I was very nearly part of it. Three other neighbours treated me like a son - Bill Clifford, Ray Lovett and Paddy McElligott.

"I had three elder sisters. The youngest was eight years older than me. She was then eleven and the others were twelve and fourteen. They were old enough to help Mum with the dairy. The eldest sister and the youngest sister worked with Mum outside and the other one – Edna – could almost run the household on her own. She did all the cooking and everything. She'd been doing that since she was eight years old. There aren't many kids who could do that today.

"On Monday, Wednesday and Friday the cream carrier came to collect our cream. We had to take it a mile to the road. The road into our place was almost inaccessible to motor vehicles. Mum had an old sulky with a frame on the back that would take two cream cans. The skim milk we fed to pigs and poddie calves. We raised replacement heifers every year, to take the place of older cows. We never bothered with bull calves. They were either sent to market or a neighbour used to come over

and kill them. I was then just a little kid but I had the job of cutting them up and boiling them for the pigs. It wasn't a nice job but I just had to do it.

"We had no radio or television but we made our own entertainment and we were never bored. We never had a motor vehicle. We depended upon the Cream Carriers, Manfred Collins, Don Minchington and Harry Seed who picked up our cream from the front gate. They would get our groceries from town and they would deliver chook food, ice and other essentials when we needed them. I started at Bagotville School just before the age of five. For many years I walked that track through the bush, often alone, and I never came to any harm. From Bagotville School with fourteen students I went on to high school at Lismore with fifteen hundred pupils. What a culture change!

"Occasionally Mum would give me a pig and, when she sold it, she'd give me the money. Then she might give me a heifer calf, which I'd rear and then sell. That's how I started to get bits of money when I was young. I also collected discarded bottles and redeemed them for the deposit.

"When I was a kid there was a great little community in Bagotville but business was conducted in Wardell. Mum used to send me in to Wardell as an eight year old to bank her money at the National Bank. I used to ride my pushbike through the heath. We used to rent two paddocks off Frank Meaney who owned the café - paper shop on the river bank and I would pay him the rent money. If I was lucky and had threepence, I would buy an ice cream. Beside his shop was a barber's shop. The last permanent barber there was Ernie Chapman who, in his spare time, used a set-line over the other side of the river where he caught sharks. He'd put half a bullock's heart on a big hook and catch sharks six or seven foot long. That was his little hobby. If you were in the middle of a hair cut and a shark took the line, Ernie would take off and wouldn't return until he'd landed the shark.

"For the first year after leaving school I used to ride my bike from Bagotville over the ferry at Wardell then half way to Broadwater for a season derricking cane at Walsh's Lane. I was fifteen years old and an offside derrick man to Jacky Wilson - a really tough bloke! I then went to Port Kembla Steelworks as an apprentice. But I had to pay board of five pounds a week. Now my wages were four pounds six shillings a week, so straight away I was fourteen bob in debt. It was nine miles to work and I had to pay bus fares. I had to go to Tech College at North Wollongong where I had to pay fees and buy all my books. You didn't get anything for nothing in those days, so I had to borrow off my Mother all the time. I got four pounds six a week and a labourer my age got twenty pounds a week. My conscience got the better of me. I did my four months probation and I went.

"I married Marie Carr in 1960, two years after we met in Ballina. We have four sons and eleven grandchildren and after over 50 years, during which we have had a lot of dramas and have crossed a lot of dry gullies, we are still together and depend on each other.

"I derricked for twelve years at Sneesby's Lane and Floods Lane and bought the Bagotville farm off my Mum. In 1972 I got a 100-acre cane permit and then really cleaned the farm up using my first tractor - a second-hand David Brown.. My eldest son has his own business but my three farming sons and I all own our own homes and collectively we own 8 farms totalling 710 acres of sugar cane, a small herd of beef cattle, fourteen tractors, a cane harvester, cane planting machinery, a truck, a couple of utilities and two excavators. When I started collecting empty bottles to get the refunds and bank them, I didn't dream how it would end – and it hasn't ended yet."

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.