

# THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

PO Box 53 Wardell NSW 2477

Issue # 18 June 2012

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Telephone 02 6683 4561

## St. Patrick's Wardell Market Day

The first St. Patrick's Market was held in 1998 to raise funds for the Mercy Centre which was then run in the Wardell Convent by Sister Larelle under a licence from the Department of Community Services. There were considerable costs in setting up the Centre which supplied shelter and support to young people in need. The centre received a grant from the Catholic Education Office but there were the ongoing costs of providing food and accommodation. St Patrick's parish and the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy underwrote these costs with additional income from Tupperware and cosmetic parties and from the running of raffles. Then Sue Felsch and the late Wal Felsch came up with the idea of a market to cover the continuing expenses. Wal was the organiser of the first markets with stalls for furniture, second-hand clothing, cakes, fruit and veggies and, of course, the famous Wardell home-made jams and pickles. Clothes lines were strung between the trees to carry the pre-loved clothes on hangers. Hot water for tea and coffee came from a gas ring which the wind frequently blew out at crucial moments. It was here that the spirit of the community market was nurtured.

In 2005, the Mercy Centre closed and became once again a convent. The market has now become an annual event much anticipated by local people and visitors from Grafton and the Gold Coast. Money raised from the market days is managed by the Finance Committee and the funds go toward the replacement of equipment and to the care of the poor and needy.

The whole community now gets together to prepare for the annual market. Young men just appear out of the blue to erect the tents and tables before dawn. Others are involved in the collection and preparation of goods for re-sale weeks before the event.



**Above: Wally Strong, Andrew Gillies and his wife Leanne sustain the visitors and the workers with delicious hot food. To the left, young Ruby views in the mirror the facial artwork created by beautician Sarah Ania.**



The Market is a community social gathering and everyone is eager to get involved. The coordinator, Steve Flatley, is unwilling to single out individuals for praise because he considers all the workers as a great team. "It is the visitors," he says, "who come here to meet and greet, to enjoy themselves and to open their wallets, that make it worthwhile." Despite the summer rain that fell almost every day for a month and continued during this year's market, the event was a success and people would not have it any other way.





## The Wheels of Change are Turning!

Ballina Shire Council has recently determined that the Wardell Community Centre at 9 Sinclair Street, Wardell be closed. Public access was discontinued during the Easter break, but existing community groups like The New Wardell Playgroup, AA, Knit 'n Knat, and the Youth Program have continued to use the facilities.

The Wardell Memorial Trust decided on Thursday 10 May 2012 to allow those community groups to meet at the hall until final details have been resolved concerning the future management of the hall. If any community group requires information about access to the Wardell Memorial Hall during this period, they should telephone:

**Jordan Robinson | Community Facilities Coordinator.**  
**Telephone 0428 003 664**



### Winter Fire Safety

- Install an adequate number of approved smoke alarms and test them regularly. That is the first step in your home fire safety plan.
- Have a written escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- Make sure keys to all locked doors are readily accessible in case you need to escape.
- Never leave cooking or any open flame, including candles or oil burners, unattended.
- Clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer every time you use it.
- Never smoke in bed and take extra care if consuming alcohol whilst smoking.
- In winter take extra care when using heaters, electric blankets or open fires.
- Don't overload power points and switch off appliances when not in use.
- Always keep lighters and matches away from children and educate them that they are "tools not toys" to be used only by responsible adults.

**Wardell Brigade, NSW Rural Fire Service.**



## For God and Empire

This magnificent Roll of Honour has been generously donated by the Wardell Uniting Church to the Wardell community. It is in the safe hands of the Blackwall Historical Society which intends to erect the Roll of Honour in a refurbished Wardell Memorial Hall in the near future. The Roll of Honour commemorates members of the Wardell Methodist Church who left the safety of this country to fight in World War I: JH Elder, CB Law, G Law, G Lovett, SW McKibbon, AT Stonelake, WH Wootten, JW Wootten, FC Wootten and C Way. WH Wootten and JW Wootten were killed in action.



**Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club Ltd**

**Telephone 6683 4437**

Over the past couple of months, the club has had its regular Friday night meals and Sunday morning golf - when the weather permitted! People wishing to have a chat and a drink with friends after work are always welcome.

A recent highlight was the March seafood night with crumbed calamari and fish bites, followed by oysters, prawns and crabs. Chicken, ham, salad and desert were also available - all included in the price. The next seafood night will most probably be held in late June.

Many people volunteer their time to make these great events happen. They drive to Iluka for prawns or to Ballina for salads. The bar and kitchen have to be staffed and all food prepared, cooked, presented and cleared away. There is a real community spirit at the heart of the club and all volunteers are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Remember the Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club when planning your next function. We cater, if required, or allow use of the kitchen. Pop in one afternoon or Friday night to see the facilities for yourself.

**Kerry Storton**

# Hip-hop Lyrical Workshop

In the Wardell Memorial Hall, under the guidance of Matthew Tanttari, the Youth Services Officer, hip-hop lyrical workshops are being held by Mark 'Dingo' Robertson the creator of 'One Vision Productions'.



Thomas Vanderval makes a recording with Mark as Matthew looks on. If ever you have wanted to learn to write, perform or record music, you can do one or all three at a hip-hop workshop providing you are over 12 years of age. The workshop combines the use of hip-hop, theatre and film production. It is a way of instilling confidence and life skills in participants who gain self esteem and improve their communication skills.

Check out Mark's web site at:

<http://onevisionproductions.ning.com/>

Matthew conducts regular youth activities in Wardell at the Memorial Hall. Sport, computer skills and homework help are some of the special activities. This is a place where young people can meet in a safe and welcoming environment to participate in healthy activities that keep them active in mind and body.

Matthew can be contacted at telephone 6681 5511 or mobile 0448 737 846  
e-mail [matthew.tanttari@bdcsa.org](mailto:matthew.tanttari@bdcsa.org)

## Blackwall Bugle Web Page

Ballina Shire Council has set aside, within its Web Site, a special page for the Blackwall Bugle. This enables readers to access and download copies of the paper.

Go to [www.ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au) choose 'Community & Lifestyle', then scroll down to 'Community Facilities' and across to 'The Blackwall Bugle.'



Those of you who enjoy visiting our local beach and those who just love nature, have a golden opportunity to leave a permanent record of your appreciation of Patches Beach. 'Plant a Tree Day' is to take place on Sunday 29 July. Make a note in your diary!

The event is organised by 'Planet Arc' and Ballina Shire Council is providing 150 trees suitable for planting on the dunes to help restore and protect the environment. Volunteers to assist with planting will be very welcome. They should wear a hat, strong footwear and clothing to protect against the sun. Bring a bottle of water for your own refreshment as bore water is used for the planting of trees.

## Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation hoy afternoon was held on a perfect autumn day in May with the proceedings benefitting Biala School in Ballina where children with special needs are cared for. Sue Parker, the president of Biala Support Services was present to thank the PLCO for their fund raising over many years.

Merna, from Evans Head, attended with her daughter. She was celebrating her 92nd birthday and was presented with a bunch of white chrysanthemums. The main raffle prize was won by Biala member Trish Puglisi.

The June afternoon meeting will be held on the first Monday starting at 1.30pm to benefit Ballina District Hospital Auxiliary. Make up a party and travel out to see us for a happy afternoon of entertainment!

Our Secretary, Elaine Coleman, is touring overseas with her daughter and her place has been taken by Olive Creighton who held the position for 40 years.

The PLCO held a successful garage sale on Saturday 5 May to raise money for the upkeep of the Pimlico Hall. There was a great variety of items for sale and morning tea with coffee and scones was provided by our celebrity cook, PLCO President Gwenda Skinner. Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service provided a sausage sizzle. The main raffle prize was won by West Ballina's Ian Icon.

April was a very wet month in Pimlico with almost daily showers. Now, with the return of the sun, farmers are working long hours to harvest their soya beans. Life goes on!

**Betty Fernance**





### Sister Larelle, a Sister of Mercy

The Knit n' Knat group meets every Thursday from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon to knit for charity and to enjoy each other's company. Sister Larelle often calls in to share a yarn. She works in the local community to support those in need but also has a keen interest, through Sister Denise, in the Brisbane Romero Centre which is a place of welcome and support for refugees.

She told the Knit n' Knat group of her meeting with a young boy, Assadullah, whose father was murdered by the Taliban and whose brother was killed before his very eyes. He came to Australia a complete orphan but has since learnt that he has a Mother and two sisters who are trapped in Pakistan. The Knit n' Knat group donated blankets for some young refugee children who have received visas and are on their way to winter in Melbourne.

Sister Larelle said she believes that the Knit n' Knat group has developed its own community spirit of sharing which helps them to grow closer together. They welcome newcomers to join them and are using their gifts and talents to teach others. The product of their endeavours helps less fortunate people to keep warm in winter and, justifiably, group members can feel good about their achievements.



Sister Larelle Sue Steel and Ivy Carter share a tall story

## Knit n' Knat



Every Thursday  
9 am -12 noon  
Wardell Memorial Hall

Knit for charity and enjoy  
the companionship of others.

The Knit n' Knat group was happy to help once again the East Ballina Lions Club through their Secretary Bob Sword and his wife Dawn. Twenty-four hand knitted rugs, twenty scarves and a dozen beanies were handed over. They will go to the Women's Refuge in Ballina and the Ballina Soup Kitchen which are considered to be the places of greatest need.

Bob Sword says that it is a real eye opener and heartbreaking to go to the Women's Refuge in Ballina where there are some tragic cases. The Lions Club gets many requests each week from people looking for help. The donation of knitted items from the Wardell Knit n' Knat will help bring some warmth into the lives of some of the distressed people this winter.

**Rose Leeson.**



**Australian Red Cross**  
THE POWER OF HUMANITY

**Wardell Red Cross is holding its  
annual Arts and Craft Show**

**on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**in the Wardell Memorial Hall**

**from 10am -1.30pm**

**Morning tea and light refreshments will  
be available.**

**A variety of local stall holders will display  
an assortment of Arts and Craft for sale.  
Please come and support this wonderful  
organisation.**

**Telephone: Monica 66879620.**

### Phil's Philosophy.

**Punctuation options: (Author unknown)**

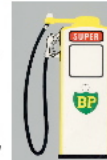
**(a) Woman, without her man, is nothing.**

**(b) Woman: without her, man is nothing.**

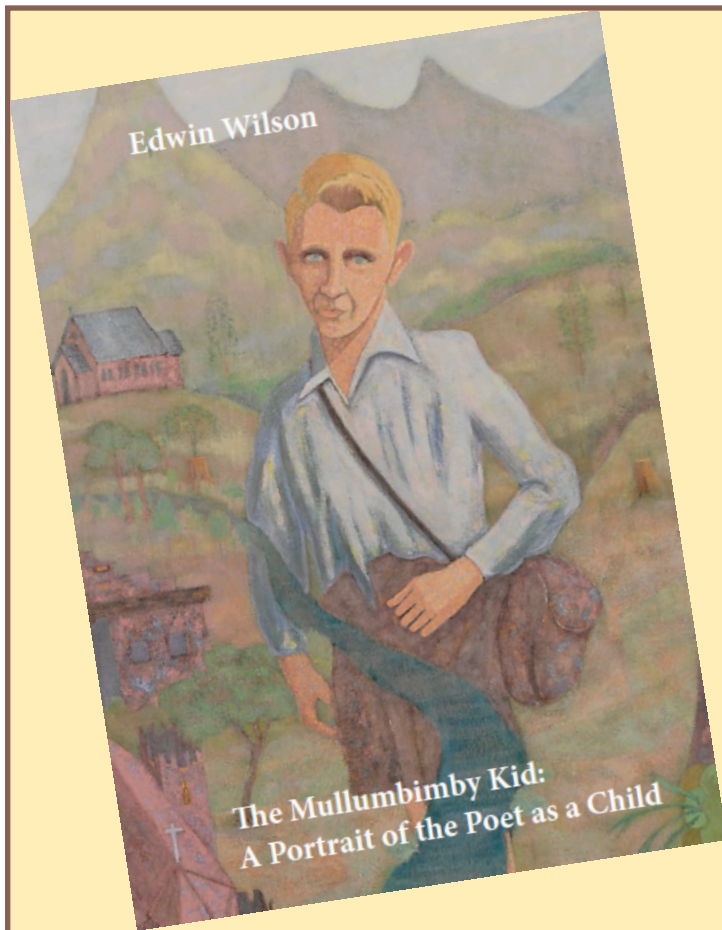
**Wardell Service Station  
for all your fuel, newspapers, take-away  
foods and convenience store items.**

**Cooking until 7.00 pm**

**Phillip and Ann Read. Telephone 6683 4252**







Edwin 'Peter' Wilson, born in 1942, spent his early years in the then isolated farming community of East Wardell. His father, Edwin James ('Tidge') Wilson, was a 'tractor driver' working on the construction of the airport at Evans Head. He died before his son Edwin was born.

Edwin lived his childhood in East Wardell and his youth in Mullumbimby. He later became a lecturer at Armidale Teachers College. He has written several books and is an acclaimed poet. This book deals with his life until the age of 19.

Those of you interested in the history of the Blackwall area will enjoy the references to many of the characters in old East Wardell.

Edwin Wilson has generously made his book, 'The Mullumbimby Kid', available to readers of the 'Blackwall Bugle' as a web book free of charge. It can be downloaded from here: <http://www.edwinwilson.com.au/?p=235>



These photographs were sent to the 'Bugle' by Margaret Weston. They show her great uncle Frederick Harold Jones, who was born in Wardell and lived in Ballina. He worked for Clarence Lumley, the Wardell farmer and butcher, who became a Councillor with Tintenbar Shire and also built Mayley House.

The butchery once stood where the Wardell Fire Brigade forecourt is now located. FH Jones is seen here in the Lumley Butchers cart in which he delivered meat to households and businesses around the district.

Frederick Harold Jones was the sixth of eleven children born to Edward Henry Jones and Elizabeth Gurd (Jurd). They relocated from Armidale to Wardell where Edward was a teamster, cane cutter and butcher. They later moved to Ballina.

At the outbreak of World War I, Frederick joined the 15th Infantry Battalion. He was only 21 years old when killed in action at Hill 971, Gallipoli, on 8 August 1915. Clarence Lumley was killed in action at the Battle of Menin Road in Belgium on 20 September 1917.





## Fire Fighting

There is more to fighting a fire than just squirting water! When a paddock of two-year-old cane was accidentally set on fire at Wardell recently, volunteer firefighters from Wardell and Meerschaum Vale responded to save the farmer's cane and protect nearby dwellings. With the mill closed, a burnt paddock would have been a total loss.

To access the fire, the Wardell truck had to proceed through year-old cane, which resulted in a mass of young cane choking the drive shaft. Rodney Outerbridge, the Captain of Meerschaum Vale Brigade, not usually one to sit down on the job, got stuck in to the task of untangling the mess.

## The Way Forward

On 19 April 2012, Pat Carney was re-elected President of the Wardell and District Progress Association. Other elected office bearers were Ray Clifford, Vice President; Nicole Eldridge, Secretary; Russell Krampe, Treasurer; and Rose Leeson, Publicity Officer.

During the past year there has been considerable progress in the area. The three C Ward councillors, David Wright, Keith Johnson and Ben Smith successfully negotiated for \$1m of Ballina Shire Council funds to be spent on Wardell. 32 new street lights have been installed, a new shared pathway has been constructed from Cedar Street to the Wardell Recreation Ground and village footpaths in Richmond, Swamp, Sinclair and Fitzroy Streets. The highlight has probably been the construction of the new pontoon at the Wardell jetty.

Paul Busmanis, the Engineering Works Manager, attended the meeting and gave members a briefing on completed projects and future plans. All this recent work has been carried out within budget leaving about \$400,000 for future expenditure.

The Progress Association meeting voted that the Council be informed that the desired priority for the expenditure of the balance be on the boardwalk along the river bank at Bridge Street and the construction of a new boat ramp facility at East Wardell.

The President congratulated the members on a good attendance at the meeting and said that it is only with the cooperation and enthusiasm of residents that progress can be made into the future. It is to be hoped that prospective councillors, for the forthcoming Ballina Shire Council elections, attend the August meeting of the Progress Association to give their vision of the future for this area.



Early morning walkers make the most of the new footpaths. Gil, Dave, Delma, Lorraine, Gayle with her dog and Lynn.



**Shaggy Ridge.** See Vic Webber's story on page 8.

Shaggy Ridge is a six-and-a-half kilometre long razor-backed ridge that is the highest feature in the Finisterre Mountains in north-eastern New Guinea. In 1943 Shaggy Ridge was the site of the main Japanese defensive position blocking access from the Ramu Valley to the track and road network that joined it with the north coast. Operations by the 7th Australian Division in September and October 1943 had caused the Japanese to withdraw from the Ramu Valley and the lower features of the Finisterres and consolidate their defences around Shaggy Ridge. The ridge was named after Captain Robert "Shaggy Bob" Clampett of the 2/27th Battalion whose company was the first to reconnoitre its approaches.

The capture of Shaggy Ridge cost the 18th Brigade 46 killed and 147 wounded and inflicted over 500 casualties on the Japanese. It cleared the way for an advance to the northern New Guinea coast to link up with the Australian forces advancing from the East and thus complete the capture of the Huon Peninsula. © Australian War Memorial

## Simply Fashion and Beauty

Tucked away behind the Wardell Post Office is an Aladdin's Cave filled with the latest trend in fashion for young and old. Proprietor Sue McCowan is a local from Sneesbys Lane with considerable retail experience in Ballina and Alstonville. She also works the weekend markets because she has a passion about bringing fashion to the people from the young, to the elderly. She has something for everybody in sizes 8 to 24.



Sue is also a Beauty Therapist who specialises in facials, waxing and manicures with acrylic nail enhancement. So if you want to look good for that special occasion - be it a wedding, a reunion, or just an excuse to pamper yourself, pay a visit to Sue - she will look after you!



6/40 Richmond Street. Telephone 0420 455 334

## Sue's Kitchen

### Banana Cake

#### Ingredients:

125 g butter  
¾ cup sugar  
3 well mashed bananas  
½ teaspoon bi-carb soda dissolved in 2 tablespoons milk  
2 eggs  
2 cups self-raising flour  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
½ cup chopped dates  
½ cup chopped walnuts

#### Method:

Preheat oven to 160°C. Lightly grease loaf tin and line with non stick baking paper.  
Sift flour & cinnamon.  
Using large bowl – mix butter, sugar and bananas together.  
Add eggs; gradually add sifted flour & cinnamon whilst adding dissolved bi-carb soda in milk.  
Fold in chopped dates and walnuts.  
Bake for approximately 55 minutes.

All ingredients can be mixed together but I prefer to add as above.

Absolutely delicious served either warm with butter, or cold.

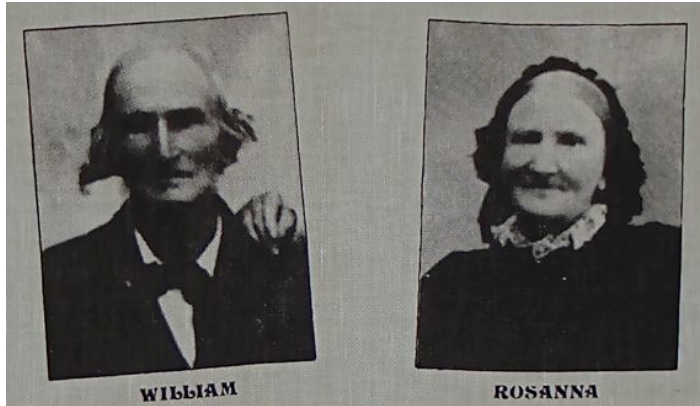


Sue F

# A Charmed Life

Vic Webber speaks with Mike Rushby

“My maternal Great Grandfather came to Australia as a convict having deserted from the British Army. The woman he later married was also a convict, having stolen a coat or something. She was put on a boat to Australia as a sixteen year old.



“They came up the Richmond River and settled in the Rous Mill - Wyrallah area where they raised their family. They are buried in Tucki Tucki Cemetery.

“I was the seventh son in a family of thirteen. My parents were dairy farmers at Wyrallah and they maintained very strict family discipline. I went to Wyrallah school where there were over a hundred pupils and two teachers. We'd milk the cows before we went to school - we were slaves - you could see that. I left school at fourteen to work on the farm and stayed at home, as most people did, until I was twenty-one, for no wages - just board and keep. I had a few bob to go out to dances and I did like old time dancing around at the country hall.

“In 1940 and 41 I went cane cutting for two seasons in Wardell at Meaney's Lane with the Jung gang. Then I went up to Gympie, where my oldest brother was, and helped him fall fifteen acres of scrub. It was all axe work in those days - no chain saws! I went to put a scarf in one side of a big old blackbutt before falling it from the other side with my axe. It had quite a few dead limbs on it and I could see them moving as I worked on the tree. I didn't have a helmet - just my old rag hat. The next thing you know, down came this huge limb and hit the ground right next to me and all around me so that I was surrounded by the tree trunk and this limb. An inch or two closer and it would have taken me right out!

“When we started, Clarrie, my eldest brother said to me, “I'm going to make an axe handle for you for this axe head.” Money was tight in those days and we couldn't afford to buy an axe handle. Clarrie got another handle and marked it out on a piece of teak then shaped the teak and fitted it. I cleared that 15 acres on a hill and, as I was falling the very last tree, I drove the axe in. It jarred and the handle split from one end to the other! It amazes me that I could fall fifteen acres with that axe then for it to split on the very last tree.

“There was no money around. In 1940 when I went cane cutting here at Wardell, there were 50 men that never got a cut. There were 23 gangs with 14 in a gang; some had 12. We were cutting in Meaney's Lane. When we cleaned it, it had to be cleaned properly, and then we put it down and loaded it onto the trucks when they came in. Ted Richards and his off-sider would lay the tracks down and shift them over to keep the trucks up to the cut cane. The trucks were pulled by horses. Six shillings and eight pence a ton is what we were paid. (About 68c) But then if you went into the pub for a beer, you got a middy of beer for a sixpence. (5c) So if you were cutting between three and four tons a day, you were doing all right.

“After the 1941 cane season I enlisted as a soldier to support the war effort. The recruits who passed out six weeks before us had just been deployed to Singapore when the Japanese took over the island. Most of those recruits were imprisoned by the Japanese before they could fire a shot. Our deployment was cancelled.

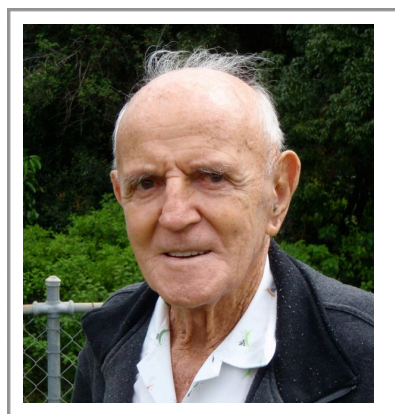
“I transferred to the Field Ambulance and was posted to Townsville at the end of 1942. We were trained as medico stretcher-bearers and nursing orderlies. Wounded patients were brought back to Australia from Port Moresby and dropped off at our hospital. Most of them required surgery. Some of them died before they could be treated. We were standing by to board the Australian Hospital Ship “The Centaur” when, on 12 May 1943, it was sunk without warning by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine about 50 miles east north-east of Brisbane. Of the 332 persons on board, almost all perished.

“I had married Heather Jean Garret in Lismore in 1942 and I first saw my daughter Valerie when I was on leave and she was two months old. She turned sixty-nine the other day! Soon after that leave, I was sent over to Papua New Guinea and was at Port Moresby when a terrible accident occurred. On 7 September 1943, we were waiting on a hill at Port Moresby airport, when an American Liberator bomber with 4 five hundred pound bombs and 2800 gallons of petrol tipped the branches of a tree as it took off. The plane crashed straight into the area where the trucks loaded with soldiers preparing to go into combat were waiting. Three of the bombs exploded, the petrol ignited and, in the inferno, 55 men were killed and 92 were injured. Of course all the men waiting to be deployed to an operational area were carrying arms and ammunition including grenades. The ammunition detonated. Our field hospital was kept very busy although most casualties were taken to the 2/5 and 2/9 Australian General Hospital.

“Our 7th Division went to Nadzab where we took Lae. We then went to Shaggy Ridge for nine months. I was one of the first there and one of the last out. The Japs were based at Madang which was only ten minutes flying time away from Shaggy Ridge. We were subjected to Japanese aerial attacks. At night they had the air to themselves and, from half moon to half moon, they'd bomb every night and all night long. The strafing was worse than the bombing. You'd just get up at daybreak and the Japs would be strafing the place. They'd go round and round on strafing runs and bullets would be flying everywhere.

“Some of the Japs got into the thick Kunai grass in the centre. You couldn't see them it was so thick. We had to go right up to them to get them out they had to be hunted out with bayonets. We lost a lot of men before we got them all out. We had a policy of “Take no prisoners.” It worked both ways because we knew if we were taken prisoner we would be killed or worked to death. It was a terrible bloody war.

The main problem was malaria - just about everyone there got it - some of them got it two or three times. I went away weighing eleven stone and I came back just under nine stone. I



was pleased to get out of the place. You might have heard about those Japs who hid in the jungle to avoid capture and didn't know the war had ended - well, that was from the Shaggy Ridge area. They couldn't go back to Madang, which the allies had reoccupied, so they lived alone for years in the jungle.

“When I was demobilised, I lived in Sydney and dug holes for three years for Gilbert and Barco - Gilbarco - who were installing new

electric petrol pumps around the country. I was appointed as an ‘Installer.’ I then came back to dairy farming at Tucki and at Bartlett's Lane in Meerschaum Vale. When I sold my farm at Meerschaum Vale, I built my present house in Carlisle Street, Wardell and for 15 years I worked for the research station at Alstonville doing general farm work mostly on the tractor. I have lived here in Carlisle Street for 38 years and I'm now 92 years old - so I've had a good innings!”

8 *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.*