

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

PO Box 53 Wardell NSW 2477

Issue # 19 August 2012

blackwall-bugle@bigpond.com

Telephone 02 6683 4561

Survival of the Fittest - or Luck of the Irish?



Wardell On The River Hotel

The early settlers of the district had two things high on their lists of priorities - their churches and their pubs. At one time, when Wardell was a busy port for the shipping of timber, it was served by 'The Royal Hotel', 'The Harp of Erin', 'The Star', and 'The Crown' and, by the side of the Wardell-Meerschaum Vale road, opposite Thurgates Lane, stood 'The Old Camp Hotel' in what had been a holding yard for the bullock teams that hauled cedar logs to Wardell to be exported around the world.

There had been an hotel opposite the present site on Richmond Street from 1873 to 1880 until 'The Royal' was built in 1880 by John Byrne of Broadwater for Samuel Smith, on land that had been owned and used by Spencer Cottee to manufacture Cottee's Drinks. The building itself was replaced by the current brick hotel that was built in 1928 by Toohey's Ltd. It is now called The Wardell on the River Hotel and remains a treasured landmark of the area and a drawcard for visitors.

Blackwall Historical Society Inc.

When John Curran arrived in Pimlico in 1878 from County Leitrim, Ireland, he bought land near the double bridges and started dairy farming. John eventually returned to his farm in Ireland. One of his ten children, James Curran, became the publican of the Exchange Hotel which is now known as the 'Henry Rouse Tavern'. He married Margaret Boylan from Ireland. Of their children, the first born was John who, after completing his schooling, entered St Patrick's College Seminary at Manly. He was ordained a priest at St Carthages Cathedral Lismore in 1926 and said his first Mass at St Patrick's Church Wardell the next day.

The fourth child was Frank who went on to become a policeman and a rugby league player for the 'Rabbitohs'. Between 1933 and 1938 he toured England with the 'Kangaroos'. Frank married Mary Fitzgerald from Mungindi. Their youngest child, John, was born in 1958 and, having been a solicitor and now a barrister, he is the publican of the Wardell On The River Hotel.

continued page 2

John Curran speaks with Mike Rushby.

"When Dad retired from the police, he took his new bride to the dairy farm he had bought at Pimlico on the riverbank where my siblings and I were all born. Betty Fernance and her late husband Eric lived in a cottage on one of our farms. The farms were converted to cane in the 50s and 60s. My Dad's career in real estate came to an end in 1966 when he sustained life threatening injuries in a car accident on the Pacific Highway in which my 16 year old sister Kathleen was killed.

"As we kids grew up, we all went to primary school at St Francis Xavier's in Ballina, then boarding school in Sydney and on to university. My brother Declan went on to play front row for Australia as a Wallaby making his debut in a win against the "All Blacks". That was a thrill for Dad who had represented Australia as a Kangaroo.

"I learnt to drive as an eleven year old in a Morris 1100 on Pimlico Road. We were related to the Meaney's who had the riverfront shop at Wardell and it was a high point for us to drive out here and then sit eating ice cream on the waterfront under the trees.

"One of my first jobs was peeling garbage-can lots of potatoes on Christmas Day at the all-night 'Tucker Box', at Fisheries Creek, for 50c an hour. I stripped cane for Russell Carr at Empire Vale until I was sixteen and got a job with farmer Arthur Cooper who was inspirational and incredibly positive despite having lost one arm.

"I left University in the early 80s and, after practicing as a solicitor until 1989, I became a barrister. I bought the Royal Hotel, Wardell in 2002 and, until 2008, had it under management. When the 'Global Financial Crisis' arrived, I had to step in and run the Hotel myself.

The Hotel into the future

"I love the quiet village atmosphere of Wardell; no traffic lights, dogs roam without getting run over, great fishing, uncrowded beaches and beautiful bird life. It's great just to sit beside the water and listen to it. I imagine a blissful experience for a visitor as one where they grab a fishing rod from a rack in the hotel and then sit by the river with rod in one hand, a cold beer in the other and their dog by their side, just watching the river flow on by.

"The hotel is heritage protected which I consider to be a bonus. I don't want in any way to diminish the heritage value of the property - I want to enhance it and polish this rough diamond. I'm hoping to get the upstairs accommodation going again. The pub needs a lot of work done to it so that I can make the hotel multidimensional and hold functions here. Times in retail and hospitality are tough and the reality is that improvements take time and money. I get regular visits from representatives of liquor wholesalers. They tell me that since the Alstonville by-pass was built, business in that town's hotel has dropped considerably. I want to ensure that when Wardell is eventually by-passed, this hotel will become a 'must visit' destination and a centre of community activity again.

"I intend to make the Hotel more customer friendly and multidimensional with more of a wine and dine focus so that functions can be held here. It is not hard to attract visitors. As an example, our resident polar bear, 'Ron Dell Bear Burgundy Junior', has already drawn specific purpose visitors from at least as far away as Coffs Harbour - simply to be photographed by Ron's side."

John Curran

Wardell On The River Hotel - The Team

KELLI McCULLY was born in Ballina but has lived in Wardell for 39 years. She is a keen tennis player playing in the local ladies' tennis competition on Thursdays. She has worked at the Hotel since the early 90s. In this time she has met many people and enjoys seeing familiar faces returning every year for the holidays.

TRACY NEWPORT, who runs the Hotel Bistro, has lived in the area for 15 years. Before that she was at Sussex Inlet on the South Coast where she ran a lakeside café for 10 years. All Hotel Bistro meals are prepared and cooked on the premises and are available for takeaway. Tracy gets her meat from Cherry Street Butchery, her bread rolls and pizza bases from the Wardell Pie Shop and Wardell Hydroponic Lettuces supply her with the freshest lettuces available. Tracy's scrumptious meals include her mouth watering pizzas, beer battered fish and chips, a burger or a plate of wedges with sour cream and chilli sauce. Telephone the Bistro on **66834811**

SHANA DELANEY was born in Ballina and went to primary school in Wardell. She completed her HSC at Alstonville then spent a year working in Ballina. She is currently studying at the International Film and Television Studios in Brisbane. Shana has lived in Wardell for 21 years but is soon to leave for Sydney to pursue her career in acting and modelling.

CASEY JONES has worked at the Hotel for 3 years. She was born and grew up in Lismore in a large family of 8 children. Seven years ago she moved from Lismore to Meerschaum Vale with her husband, Paul Jones, who is an electrician servicing the local area including the Hotel. Paul and Casey recently bought acreage at Marom Creek. Casey works 2 nights a week at the Hotel and has a job with a car yard in Lismore. She enjoys meeting the locals and has made many friends.

JADE GARDEN was born in Bondi, Sydney, but raised in Wardell. She attended Alstonville Primary School and then moved to Sydney where she attended High School. She completed her HSC at Southern Cross K-12 in Ballina. Early next month Jade will be moving to Melbourne to study Osteopathy.

NERIDA KELLY has been helping Tracey in the Hotel Bistro for the past 6 months. She attended Ballina High School and her family all live and work locally. Nerida cooks a mean pasta carbonara and her cheesy garlic breads are very popular.

ALYCE WATERS recently arrived from Narrandera and brought with her a wealth of work experience in Hospitality. She lives in Ballina where she also has another job. She looks forward to meeting local Wardellians as well as visitors. Alyce is particularly keen on tennis, golf, swimming and netball.



Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club Ltd

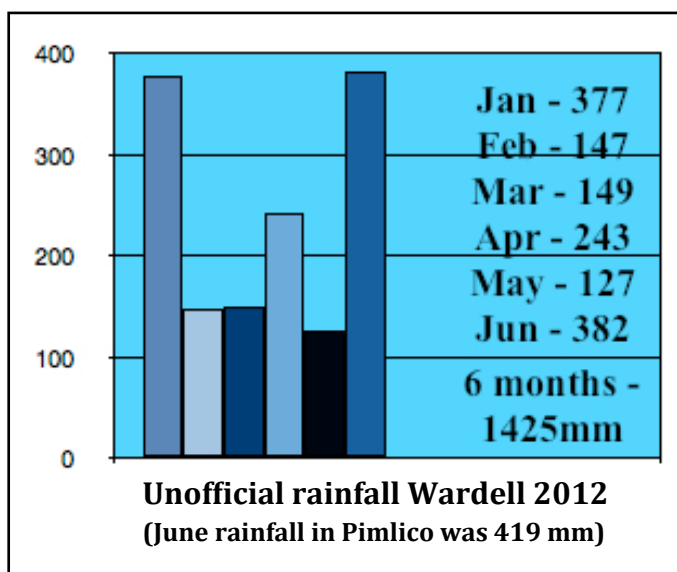
Telephone 6683 4437

The last couple of months at the Wardell Sporting and Recreation Club have been interesting. We have had the normal Friday nights with raffles and meals and also some special meetings and bookings that we have hosted and catered for.

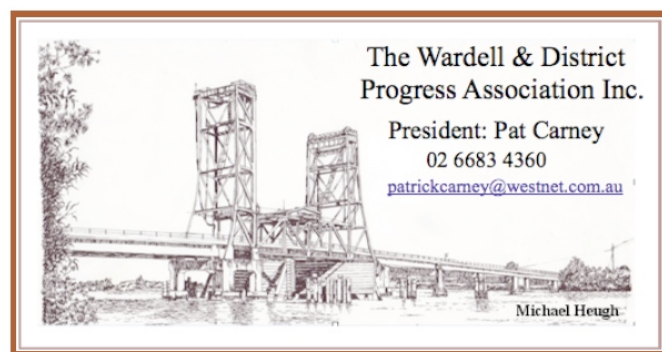
One of the main events was the 90th birthday party for a regular attendee to the club's Friday nights – Claude Angilley. Over 40 people attended this momentous event, including his family from Sydney and Perth who came over especially for the weekend. A lunch of salad and cold meats was provided with desserts of mud cake, Pavlova and fruit salad. All people who attended had a wonderful afternoon and went home well fed and happy.

The golf has been going well with many members attending the regular Sunday morning competitions. After the competitions there is a BBQ lunch available for all players and those that turn up and the prizes are given out.

Upcoming events include the last seafood night for 2012 to be held in October. On this night you can eat oysters, prawns and crabs to your hearts delight, and fill up on salads, cold meat and desserts. The bar is open and a good time is usually had by all. Other events are "Show and Shine" outings for a couple of the local motor cycle clubs. They will be going on a ride, then coming to the club for lunch and to have their bikes judged. One outing is to be held on 18 August, the other on 29 September. **Kerry Storton**



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.



Your Community Needs You!

Everyone is invited to attend the next meeting of the Wardell and District Progress Association in The Wardell Memorial Hall on 16 August at 7.00pm. All prospective candidates for Ward C Councillors at the forthcoming Ballina Shire Council elections and candidates for the office of Mayor, have been invited to speak. This is your chance to meet the candidates and ask them a few curly questions. To be fair to the candidates, if a question you are asking needs research to provide a meaningful answer, you are asked to send your question in advance to out secretary - nicoleeldridge@hotmail.com

At the same meeting, the President will bring us up to date with all the latest developments in the Wardell district and invite public comment and suggestions on planning for our future. We are holding a real community get-together in November in which we hope to involve the Sports and Recreation Club, the Royal Hotel, the Red Cross, Fire Brigade, Fishing Club, the Churches, Cabbage Tree Island and any other clubs and associations that form the fabric of our society. Your input will be much appreciated.

We are also planning another voyage of the 'Richmond Princess' from Ballina to Wardell return. The date will depend upon suitable tides and the availability of the boat. Sue Wardrobe at the Post Office will coordinate bookings - watch her notice board for details of the voyage. **Pat Carney**



Belinda's Hair Studio

Down on the waterfront, next to the Wardell Memorial Hall, Belinda Barnes has been operating her salon for over 12 years at 47 Richmond Street. She did her apprenticeship, here and in Broadwater, with Ann McElligott and would rather not live or work anywhere else. "It's a great place to bring up a family," she says, "and I love the close community spirit. I know almost all my clients personally and many of them have been with me for many years."



Fay Daley on a regular visit to Belinda's salon.

"I enjoy working with my clients to ensure that they leave here feeling good about themselves. If you look good, you feel better! I love cutting, colouring and changing styles. Every day for me is different. Everybody is different. Every hair style is different. Clients can come to me and talk about anything under the sun knowing that whatever is said stays between these four walls.

"Anyone can call in during business hours to say 'G'day' at my salon but, for an appointment, phone me on 6683 4792 - you will be most welcome."



Australian Red Cross
THE POWER OF HUMANITY

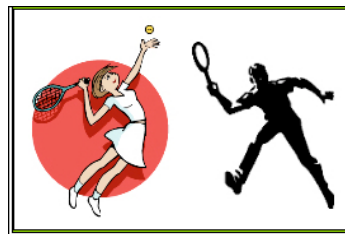
**Wardell Red Cross is holding its
annual Arts and Craft Show
on Sunday 5th August**

**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.



Wardell Tennis Club

Pat Carney 6683 4360

**Waunita Lindsay
6683 4141**

The Wardell Tennis Club has started a winter competition with about 20 regular players. Our star member of the club, Jessica Tickle, was the under 14 winner of the North East Zone Junior Development Squad. Jess is now off to Grafton and then hopefully onto Inverell for the U14 State finals. The club would love to have more junior members like Jess and another improver in the club, 12 year old Claydon.

The courts are available for hire at a very reasonable rate and can be booked at the BP Service Station. So get out there, have a hit and use the BBQ area and playground next to the courts. If you wish to play on a regular basis come along to the courts on a Monday night and meet the members. You will be made very welcome. **Pat Carney**

Sue's Kitchen

**Pea and
Ham Soup**

Ingredients:

2 Smoked ham hocks (*may use in lieu 500 g Bacon Bones*).
1 large brown onion chopped
1 desert spoon Curry powder
1 bay leaf
12 cups of water
1 cup Green Split Peas (which have been soaked overnight)
2 sticks of celery chopped
2 carrots chopped
1 Parsnip chopped
Salt and pepper to taste.

Method

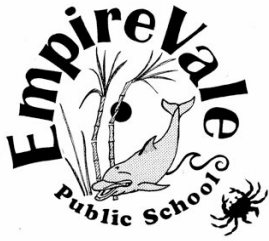
Place ham hocks, onion, green split peas, curry powder, bay leaf and water into a saucepan. Bring to simmer and cook for ~90 minutes. Skim off fat from top. Add chopped veggies, bring to boil then simmer for ~60 minutes. Allow to cool. Remove hocks from liquid, remove meat from the hocks and return meat to soup. Discard the skin and bones. Reheat - Season with salt and pepper and serve with crusty bread.

Serves ~8



An old and gold
recipe for me

Sue F



Empire Vale Strikes Back

Empire Vale saves the Universe!

The students of Empire Vale School have been busy writing and producing this year's annual school performance titled 'Empire Vale Strikes Back.' The play has been written by the Year 6 students, with guidance from their creative arts teacher. The children created an adventure which finds them exploring infinity and beyond, discovering many ways to look after each other and our Mother Earth. The school has been abuzz with students busy learning scripts, developing dance routines, mastering music and creating alien costumes that are simply out of this world!

We had two performances, a daytime matinee on Tuesday 26 June at 11.30am and a night performance on Wednesday 1 August. The P&C hosted a BBQ fundraiser at the evening performance, supplying us with the best steak and rissole sandwiches in the known universe!

'Empire Vale Strikes Back' was clever, fresh and had lots of funny local references that gave our audience a good belly laugh! **Karen Rantissi**



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

Empire Vale students shoot for the stars.

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation had a successful fund raising afternoon on the first Monday in July. Visitors, including holiday makers, came from as far away as Charlestown. We have increased our entry fee from \$3 to \$5 plus an optional \$1 raffle. The visitors were happy with the arrangements so larger amounts can now be forwarded to the local charities involved.

The July afternoon benefitted Camp Quality which is an organisation that cares for children with cancer. Maureen Thomas, who has been a volunteer with Camp Quality for 48 years, was present to thank us for our many years of fundraising. She presented us with a gift which will be on display in the Pimlico Hall. Mary said that her group, which covers from the Tweed to Port Macquarie, is at present looking after 36 children.

Condolences were expressed to our president Gwenda Skinner on the loss of her beloved mother, 92 year old Myrtle Parker of Coraki. Myrtle often displayed her beautiful handicraft at functions in Pimlico Hall.

The main prize was won by regular supporter Gladys Spindler from Ballina. The August afternoon will be held on the first Monday at 1.30 pm. It will benefit Riding for the Disabled at Teven on the Johnston property.

The PLCO is happy to welcome its Secretary back from holiday. Elaine Coleman, accompanied by her daughter Karen Barnes of Wardell, had been overseas for a couple of months. After visiting Japan, London and France, they embarked on a tour of 15 European countries including a cruise from Italy to Greece. They then flew to Ireland to visit Nuala Gannon, a friend of 55 years. Elaine and Nuala had worked together in Sydney and Nuala has previously visited Pimlico with her niece.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings. So bring a friend and enjoy a fun afternoon at Pimlico with a home cooked afternoon tea and a game of hoiy. A variety stall will be operating offering fruit, veggies and cakes.

Betty Fernance

Phil's Philosophy.

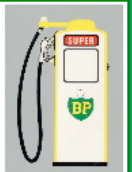
Wise men don't need advice. Fools won't take it.

Benjamin Franklin

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



Back copies of the "Blackwall Bugle" can be downloaded from the Ballina Shire Council website at the URL below, or by 'Googling' *Blackwall Bugle*

A Mural for the Wardell Bridge Underpass

The bare concrete has long been a target for graffiti artists but the Ballina District Community Services Association, with the support of the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, decided to take positive action by engaging local youth in the creation of a mural to which they could relate. The project was facilitated by Ballina Shire Council through the Wardell Community Centre, prior to its closure. They secured approval for the mural through the owners of the infrastructure - the Roads and Maritime Authority. Matthew Tanttari of BDCSA encouraged young people from the area to take part in the creation of a mural depicting the aspirations of youth. It seems the main interest of the local young people is in music. It is the biggest community art project in Wardell in recent times.



Above: Matthew and some of the creators of the mural, stand before the bare walls and plan the offensive.

On the right: Jack hones her skills as a youth advisor by giving helpful tips to Toni.

Below: the mural in the final stages. Regrettably the high humidity of the two day project slowed the drying of the paint and some touching up will be required. Over 25 young people were involved in this project over the two days, and further mural projects are in the pipeline.

Matt Tanttari

Youth Services Officer





Doris Johnston's East Wardell imposed upon a modern map. See story on page 8

In the 1920s the Pacific Highway followed River Drive to the Burns Point ferry

- 1-Paddy Walsh. Home & Butchers shop. 2-Fischer. 3-Harris. 4-Gibson. 5-Harold & Elsie Allen-1928-1978
6-Bugden & McDonald.(Mrs McDonald was Doris Elliot's mother. Mrs Bugden was Clara Collyer's mother)
7-Squirt & Doris Elliot. 8-Tom & Marie Scroope. 9-Troy. 10-Thomas Henry & Kate Flatley. 11-Pat & Dorothy Scroope.



Doris Allen, East Wardell 1935



Doris Allen, East Wardell 1939



Doris Johnston, USA 2010

Fire Safety in the Home. Every home must have at least one working fire alarm on each level.



Position a fire blanket close to the kitchen and near an exit. They are ideal for smothering cooking fat fires or to wrap around people whose clothes are on fire. They must be Australian Standard Approved.



Smother the fire by calmly placing the blanket over the flames whilst keeping your hands and face protected behind it.
Wardell Brigade,
NSW Rural Fire Service.
<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Growing Up in Wardell in the 1920s and 30s

By Doris Johnston who now lives in the USA.

During the late 20's and 30's I lived in East Wardell in the Allen's house about a quarter mile from the Wardell ferry past the Harris and Gibson homes. It was on the Pacific Highway at the time, which was a dirt road and later was tar graded with draft horses. The Allens lived there from the 1920s until 1978, then it was owned by a grandson, John Scroope.

My Father cut cane for many years in Queensland and the Richmond River area. He was a ganger and a cook. My Mum took care of the home. She milked cows and looked after the chooks and the garden. She sold the milk, cream, and eggs for pin money to buy the meat which I took to my Father in the field. Mum could also mend a fence as good as anyone.

Electricity came to East Wardell and the Allen's house in 1936. Mum got a fridge and the kerosene lamps went into storage. Electric lights were lovely to do homework by if you had the notion to do it.

The Wardell District

There were two schools across the river. We lived on the East side of the river and crossed over by ferry or small boat. If both Catholic and public children were crossing at the same time, we kept separate as much as possible as there was a lot of friction between both groups. I attended the public school. The first teacher I recall was Mr. Johnstone. The one I remember best is Mr. Bongers. He taught all 6 grades and his wife taught the sewing classes.

The little Church that closed in February 2012, Wardell Uniting Church, was the one that I went to as a Methodist with my Mother. She was a member of that church most of her life. We had to go over the Richmond River and make a long walk past the Church of England School and their playing field.

The Payne's had a big lorry and did the creamery run from the area farms to the Ballina Creamery. There were times when folks went to Ballina in the lorry and other times when they hired the lorry out to go to beaches or other destinations. This especially happened on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Frequently there were four to five families including the Ryans, Elliotts, Troys, Walshes and the Allens making these trips. We would spend the day at Evans Head or sometimes would go to Yamba or East Ballina. Otherwise, we used to go to the beach at Carney's Lane which is about six lanes to the north of Patch's beach. It was a lovely ocean, but there were many rip tides. I was in one...an ugly memory where I was washed out to sea, but was thrown back on the beach. I still don't like water over my head today. The fishing was good, too.

The school bus was owned by Alec Fleming, but it was not used exclusively as a school bus. He ran the bus from Ballina to Evans Head and on the way back made stops at Woodburn, Broadwater, Wardell and Empire Vale. Then the bus crossed on the Burns Point Ferry and went on to East Ballina. I boarded the bus around 8.00am and we made it to Ballina High School by 9.00am. We did the return trip leaving Ballina at 3:30 and were home in enough time to get the cows in. The blessed cows never seemed to know which way was home. I routinely set the wood fire going in the stove and put tea on when I arrived home. I had time to collect eggs or whatever Mum needed doing; my sister, Marie (later Scroope) worked at the Post Office on the telephone exchange, so the odd jobs around the house were mine.

The Fishers had a store in East Wardell. Well remembered were the lollies and the frozen custard blocks they sold after the electricity was connected. Paddy Walsh had a slaughter house and a butcher shop on the Broadwater Road in East Wardell. Mrs. Bugden (Clara Collier's mother) and Mrs. McDonald (Doris Elliott's mother) lived across the lane and almost every one went there to play cards. It was good entertainment and a chance to get together. Squirt and Doris Elliott lived down the lane towards the ocean. Jean and Esmond (nicknamed Blue) Elliott were their family. Squirt had a "fliver" which was four wheels, an engine and a bench to sit on, and to get a ride was well worth waiting for.

The Troys lived further up the Pacific Highway towards Ballina. They had three children Marie (who Lester Lovett took for a bride), Kevin (Rusty), and Nancy who is well remembered by me.

Odd Thoughts

We used to play in the lantana flowers in the lanes and by the river. They were great places to play and it is amazing we survived. On the West side of the river, I remember logs coming into the wharf near Bartlett's Grocery on ox carts. Along the river, Meany's newspaper store had lots of good things. If one had the money, the lollies there were the big thing, but lollies were my big thing everywhere.

Riding horses or driving in a sulky was how we got about, but walking was not bad either. We had to go to Broadwater to get the horses shod. Nellie Ryan and I went successfully most times. On one trip, the horses got tangled in electric wire, cut their flanks and bucked us off, so back home we went. I learned to ride push bike in the lane. I learned fast as barbed wire was not a good thing to run into. After learning, I went on many rides with Ivy Collyer Baker. Dirt roads were not easy to ride on, but we got by.

A worthwhile trip was out to the cemetery which was a must to see the flannel flowers, boronia and mostly the Christmas bells. Picking Christmas Bells in the 1930s was illegal, but nevertheless was done.

On Christmas Day, we walked up to Pop and Mrs. Collyer's place (Jack and Clara). Mrs. Collyer made the best Christmas cake and she had RED pop in bottles that had the marble in the neck of them, which was really super! You had to push the marble down to enter text o get the pop out.

Another odd thing I recall is how to wash a blanket! One got into the tub bare foot, and stomped around on them. Then, we would take them out and I helped Mum wring them out by hand. Another odd thing to remember is that when one splits wood for kindling, to keep the axe away from the tub! Axford was a tinsmith that did a good job of welding. It was quite an embarrassment to take our tub over the Richmond River to be repaired after putting the ax through it, but that is what one does sometimes at 10 years old!

Things Missed and a Thank You

Most missed by being in the USA are the tropical fruits: paw paw, passion fruit, pineapple, guava, mango, and bananas. These can be purchased now, but after eating fresh fruit off the vine, these store bought fruits are not very tasty. The fish and prawns are much better from the Richmond River, too. I've missed a lot of good people from this period of time, but I have not always remembered all of the names and for this I say I'm sorry. I thank my two nieces, Janice and Jill, for asking me to take this odd trip through yesteryear.