

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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Farewell Dear Friends!

It was open day at Rose Leeson's home at Pimlico as Rose celebrated her 80th birthday amongst a crowd of well-wishers, family and friends, when Sister Larelle Laverty and Sister Grace Laverty, of the Wardell Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, announced that they were leaving town!

After the initial shock on hearing the news that the two stalwarts of our community were about to retire, there was an overwhelming sense of appreciation for all they have done for us over many years. But they won't be far away. They are retiring to Crowley Village in Ballina so we should see plenty of them!

The Sisters of Mercy received Larelle as a postulant back in 1956. She came to Wardell after 35 years in secondary education with many years as Principal of St Mary's College Grafton and St Mary High School Casino. She then chose to take in children in crisis at the Wardell Mercy Centre and supported them by raising money through the very popular annual Wardell Market Day for the 'Kids in Crisis' mission. "I looked after 400 kids with all kinds of issues," Larelle said.

Australian cricket legend Adam Gilchrist, as chair of the National Australia Day Council in 2013, wrote a letter of congratulation to Larelle on her nomination for Australian of the year. We have known her as administrator of the pastoral ministry in the Wardell community supported by her sibling Sister Grace.

Sister Grace was received into the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy as a postulant in 1957 and professed in 1960. She became a Primary School teacher and taught at Grafton, Yamba, Westlawn and Maclean before being appointed Principal of Clarence Valley, St Patrick's Dorrigo and St Patrick's Macksville schools. She then



Old friend Lorna Dory (seated) shares a good story with Sisters Larelle and Grace.

ran a Grief and Loss programme throughout the Lismore diocese from the Queensland border to Laurieton.

The sisters have become well loved within our community because they are so involved with our community. They offer comfort to those in distress, support others in times of need and accept all people regardless of race, religion or status.

The pride and devotion they have shown towards the historic St Patrick's Church is reflected in the warm welcome the church extends to all. The Sisters have a love of gardening and of the natural world around them and they are always willing - no matter how busy they are, to stop and have a yarn.

There will always be a place for them in the heart of Wardell.

**Wardell Progress Association AGM
Wednesday 20 April at 7.00 pm.**

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**Followed by a General Meeting.
Wardell & District War Memorial Hall.**



Fireies still on fire!

There are young men and women in the Wardell Rural Fire Brigade and there are many experienced hands too! The above photo was taken at the Ocean Shores Country Club where members of the Wardell Brigade were among those honoured for their voluntary service to the community. Many received service decorations from visiting dignitaries including RFS Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley, Geoff Provest MP - the State Member for Tweed, the Hon Justine Elliot MP - the Federal Member for Richmond and the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

The Wardell Brigade is called out about once a week - mainly to traffic accidents and fires and every time the alarm sounds it is for something interesting and unexpected. Those in the group photograph have many years of experience. Starting at the left of the rear rank, Karl Hearn with 12 years service, Michael Heugh 26 years, Ray Collyer 42 years, Mike Rushby 21 years, Ron Rosolen 21 years, Gayle Collyer 42 years, Lorraine Judge 42 years and David Judge 42 years. (The Brigade was first formed 42 years ago and some of the founding members are still active.)

Brigade Captain Ray Collyer who, together with President Rex Farrell, has just returned from firefighting in Tasmania, said that the eight firefighters above have given 248 years of voluntary service to the community - not only in this part of New South Wales, but also out west and at major fires around Sydney and in Victoria. Many of them also did relief work during extensive flooding in Brisbane.



This photo of a healthy looking young Dingo was taken near the Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club. Wildlife reports indicate that there are no Dingos east of Kyogle but this fellow looks quite at home. Apparently he normally lives and is cared for, at the Eastern end of Old Bagotville Road but he was scared away from there by some roaming wild dogs.

He is not a pet. Just treat him with respect!

Wardell & District Progress Association



Meetings are always lively events, with community members eager to raise matters of concern to all of us who live here. Mayor David Wright, who rarely misses a meeting and is almost always joined by Councillors Ben Smith and Paul Worth, commented that Wardell has the most active progress association within the shire. He said that he appreciated the energetic enthusiasm of the President and the committee and was always encouraged by the interest shown by the local community.

At the last meeting, John Stead, the President of the Hall Committee gave a report on the repairing of the roof guttering prior to the start of a new coat of paint for the

hall being applied by Mal Sly. The paint has been generously donated by Bunnings Warehouse.

John also thanked Ken Threlfo and Gloria Craik who have kindly taken on the responsibility of the role of Treasurer for the Hall Committee.

Our thanks are due to Kevin van Eyk for organising the printing, collating, binding and the very professional presentation of the Blackwall Bugle which is now available at the Post Office, the BP service station, the Wardell on the River Hotel, the Empire Vale Post Office and the Café for those unable to access the internet.

The Progress Association has donated \$1,100 towards a defibrillator. It has been purchased and Ros Walsh, the President of the Wardell Branch of the Australian Red Cross, brought it to the meeting. She organised a workshop to enable the community to learn how to operate it. We hope that you were able to be there.

The construction of the Wardell boardwalk should be going to tender as soon as the Consultant Ecologist completes his report.

We are glad to see Warren Barnes back on his mower after a heart operation. He quietly keeps the hall grounds neat and tidy and his voluntary work is much appreciated.

The AGM of the Wardell & District Progress Association is to be held at the hall on Wednesday 20 April at 7.00 pm. It will be followed by a General Meeting. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Pat Carney



Mayor David Wright provided the link below to the **Ballina Koala Population Viability Analysis**.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/northern-nsw/woolgoolga-to-ballina/ballina-koala-plan-january-2016.pdf>

On 23 February, at the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall, about forty people attended a briefing on the 'Ballina Koala Plan' given by eminent scientist Dr Rod Kavanagh.

Dr Kavanagh, first on the left being introduced by Pat Carney, is an internationally recognised forest wildlife scientist.

Klaus Kerzinger
Strategic Planner
Strategic and Community Facilities Group



The Strategic Plan for Wardell

has been finalised. The link below is to the Wardell page on Council's web site which may be of interest to you.

http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-SVR-15-00-61



The Wardell & District War Memorial Hall which predates World War I, has been given a new lease on life thanks to the Wardell & District Progress Association and the efforts in particular of the President of the Hall Committee, John Stead. Bunnings donated the paint. Mal Sly and his team did the work.

Below, the team:-
Bob Taylor, Glenn Groznik, Paul McLean and Mal Sly.

There Must be Something in the Water at Empire Vale



Hidden away beneath a huge fig tree and surrounded by the sugar cane fields of Empire Vale, is a true champion. Twelve year old Kirsty Graham-Jones has only just started high school at Ballina but she is already recognised for her outstanding sporting ability and was nominated for an Australia Day award as sportsperson of the year.

Her Primary School teacher Karen Rantissi said Kirsty participated in swimming at state level, athletics at state level and she was a member of the school soccer and AFL teams. She won numerous events in the Country Championships and won her age group in the Ky Hurst Byron Bay ocean swim race. She has also choreographed dances for school performances.

She loves soccer and netball but her passion is for ocean swimming with the Ballina Lighthouse Surf Club where she can also compete with her nipper board. With the Surf Club she is also able to practice her skills in first aid and CPR.

In between times she comes home to Mum Kim, Dad Mark, big sister Abbey, big brother Jack and a welcoming bunch of dogs. The most important thing for Kirsty is her happy family.



‘Our’ Senior Citizen of the Year

Mayor David Wright with special guest and former test cricketer, Max Walker, presented awards to worthy recipients at the Ballina Shire Australia Day Celebrations that were held at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre.

Betty Fernance, who is now in her mid nineties, was presented with a Certificate of Commendation by Justine Elliot MP and Cr Wright. Betty, together with Olive Creighton and Betty Whitney was one of the founding members of the Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation 55 years ago. She has devoted much of her time and energy to working with the PLCO to help raise money for such honourable associations as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, the Ballina District Hospital Auxiliary, the Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service, the Ballina Ex-Serviceman’s Home and to cover the running costs of the Pimlico Hall. Betty’s story can be viewed by going to the Ballina Shire Council Website and downloading Blackwall Bugle #26.

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

The Blackwall Historical Society

Anyone who is interested in family history or in the history of this region, is invited to join the Wardell & District Progress Association to help record and preserve our history.

Ballina Shire Young Citizen of the Year - Jasmine Crethar

Twelve year old Jasmine Crethar, who was the School Captain of Empire Vale Primary School in 2015, was recently awarded the Ballina Shire Young Citizen of the Year Award by Mayor David Wright and guest speaker Max Walker at a ceremony at Lennox Head. She had been endorsed by Creative Arts Teacher, Karen Rantissi, who is herself an Australia Day Award winner. Karen said that Jasmine always strives to perform her best in a wide variety of disciplines including sports, the arts and academia. Jasmine represented her school in debating, public speaking and spelling bee. She was on the general knowledge champion team and was chosen for the Science and Engineering Team to represent the small schools network at the Southern Cross University Science Challenge. Jasmine showed great leadership in the preparation of the ‘Sweet As’ art exhibition held at The Northern Rivers Community Gallery, and has artwork chosen for the Department of Education and Training Arts Unit’s ‘Operation Art’ Program. Karen said, “Jasmine embraces the positive qualities that should be celebrated in our young people.”

Jasmine now attends Ballina High School. She plays touch football for the Ballina Bull Sharks and netball for the Ballina RSL Club. It is early days yet for Jasmine but she says she is aiming to go to university after high school to become a teacher or maybe a nurse like her Mum Linda!



The Wardell branch of the Red Cross and the Wardell and District Progress Association have purchased and installed a new defibrillator for the benefit of the community.



The AED or Automated External Defibrillator is located in the porch way or entrance to the Wardell Memorial Hall which is a most central position for the hall, the school, the hotel, post office, cafe and jetty.

On Wednesday 23 March, a Clinical Nurse Cardiac Specialist Shaen Springall, from a local hospital, conducted an education session at the invitation of the President of the Wardell Red Cross - Ros Walsh. It was well attended by Wardell residents.

AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators), when used within the first 3-5 minutes of a person suffering a Sudden Cardiac Arrest can dramatically increase a victim's chance of survival from what is currently less than 5% to as much as 70% and higher with a defibrillator on the scene. AEDs were designed to be used by virtually anyone with little or no experience. An AED will automatically analyse the heart rhythm of a pulse-less victim and, if the victim is in ventricular fibrillation (VF) or ventricular tachycardia (VT), shock the victim's heart in an attempt to restore its rhythm to normal. AEDs will not shock patients who do not require a shock.

When a heart is in VF, it is still receiving nerve impulses from the brain. These impulses are simply firing so chaotically that the heart cannot produce a "beat;" it cannot expel enough blood to keep the circulatory system flowing through the body. Brain cells begin to die after 4-6 minutes of oxygen deprivation. It is essential to maintain CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) until the Defibrillator is in place.



Ros Walsh introduces Shaen Springall.

Shaen pointed out that any attempt at resuscitation is better than none at all. If in the moment you are unable to remember what DRSABCD means: do something! Even if it is just compressions or an older protocol, it will be better than doing nothing.

DRSABCD means :-

D - Danger - Keep yourself and anyone else out of danger.

R - Response - Check casualty will respond. If not :-
S - Send for help - dial Triple Zero (000), which can be dialled from any fixed or mobile phone.

A - Airway - Check it is open and clear.

B - Breathing - Look, Listen and Feel for normal breathing.

C - Start CPR - 30 chest compressions followed by 2 breaths in a continuing cycle. Tilt the head back when delivering breaths. The emphasis is on the compressions. Be firm but gentle with babies.

D - Defibrillation - These units are designed for use by the average person in the street and make a significant contribution towards the chances of survivability of a heart attack patient. Essentially to use these devices you turn them on, follow the verbal prompts and deliver a shock when advised to.

When a patient is receiving CPR, do not disrupt the delivery of CPR to attach the AED to the patient if possible. Where there are two (2) first aiders, one first aider works around the other to attach the AED while the other continues to deliver CPR.

Liability. As long as you make a reasonable attempt to help a person, the NSW Civil Liability Act 2002 (sometimes known as the Good Samaritan Act) states that individuals will not incur personal civil liability.

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4243

Pimlico Flags Not Flying

Those readers of the Blackwall Bugle who regularly travel Pimlico Road, would have noticed that the flags at the house of Betty Fernance are no longer flying. Just after Christmas Betty was taken ill and after a three week stint in hospital, it was decided that a period of recovery and TLC was warranted and so Betty is now recuperating at Crowley Village. She made a lasting impression in the Pimlico area as a wonderfully stubborn, generous and amazing woman. She and her flags will be sadly missed! We send Betty all our very best wishes.

The dryer weather in February gave our farmers a much needed break to be able to catch up on their backlog of work, however, the sugar-cane and soy bean crops have welcomed the rain in early March.

Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation Inc. will be holding their monthly Hoi afternoon on the following dates:-

- 4th April for St Andrews Nursing Home Auxiliary;
- 2nd May for Biala Support Services;
- 6th June for the Ballina Hospital Auxiliary.

Hoi commences at 1.30 pm and will be followed by a home-made afternoon tea and a cuppa. If you have an afternoon to spare, please come and join us. For further information you can ring 6683 4243 or Gwen on 6683 4354.

Jill Lock



Australian Red Cross

Branch President Ros Walsh Meetings 1st Wednesday of the month at 5.30 p.m.

Wardell & District War Memorial Hall

New members always welcome. Telephone 6683 4111

David Daley & the

Wardell Golf Club Wardell Sports & Recreation Club

I was born in Lismore on 6 January 1938 and lived in Alstonville where my family were dairy farmers. I was one of ten kids in the family. My father's parents died young and I don't remember too much about them. But my Mother's parents were named Harder and they lived and worked in Lismore. I left school at thirteen to go and help on the farm and I worked there for three or four years. Then I did three or four years cane-cutting to earn a quid here in Wardell, then at Yandina and then up at Ingham. I came home briefly before going to Sydney to work for fifteen years.

I did a bit of everything there from labouring in an aluminium smelter, detailing in a car yard, then five or six years laying pathways with hot-mix all around Sydney. About 1969 I flew back to Ballina.

I started cleaning at the Ballina RSL Club where I met my wife Fay who also worked at the club. She was married at the time but later got divorced. We got married when I was about 51. Fay already had ten children so I gained a new large family overnight! It was all for the better and I have never

looked back since then. Two of the kids have died but we still have eight beautiful kids, about twenty-eight grand kids and twenty-six great-grand kids.

When I left the RSL, I got a job with the Main Roads Department driving a crane. I bought this place here in Wardell in 1970. It was a six acre block with a house. In 1989 we got married and lived in the old house for a year. Then I cut the block off and built this house next door. We then moved from there to here and have been here ever since. When I first got here I had a market garden and grew a lot of vegetables. I had a house cow that produced our own milk and a couple of beef cattle.

I got a job with the main roads department driving a crane and I worked for them until I retired. Police Sergeant Jim Taylor come to town in the mid 80s. He was the last operational policeman to be stationed in Wardell. His main interest was to keep all the kids out of trouble but we had no sporting facilities except one little bit of ground and an old shed. So, at his suggestion we called a meeting at the school and we formed the



Wardell Sporting & Recreation Club and started up a junior league. At the time we were playing on a 35 acre crown reserve. About a cricket field was cleared and the rest was heath and swamp. We played football on the cricket field by putting sand on the cricket pitch. There was a lot of interest and the next thing I knew Jim Taylor was up there with bulldozers and with farmers and their tractors. He had the earth moving Gibsons and Lovatts with their machinery and away we went clearing the ground. It took us about six months to clear it all and then every weekend we had all the cane farmers with their trailers and we had fifty women and kids following the trailers and picking up sticks. It was sight to behold. This went on for about six months until we cleared the whole grounds as it is today.





Ballina Council helped us all immensely. We ended up with two full cricket fields, two full football fields, two modular fields and three mini fields. So when it was our turn to host the sports days we would have anything like seven or eight hundred people up there on a Saturday morning and the girls in the canteen made a fortune selling pies and soft drinks. Eric Perry built the old canteen on the side of the grounds with toilets. There were no change rooms in those days - they were added later.

When we started, our first President was Bruce Holt and Colleen Leeson was the first Secretary. A woman by the name of Dawn Evans, who had a few boys in town, asked us if we could form a junior league. So we did. We had four teams 8s, 10s, 12s and 14s and Bruce went out to Cabbage Tree Island and a lot of the island boys joined us. We used to have pretty good teams and won the premiership almost every year. We had all the good forwards and all the fast backs.

We didn't have a clubhouse. We had nowhere to sit down and have our meetings, so a few of us got together and decided we would try to get some money to build a clubhouse. We called in all the tradies around town if they could help and they all volunteered their time and skill if we got enough money together to build it. Then we looked at raising donations from the public and there is a board up in the club to this day that details the one hundred and eleven folks who threw in one

hundred bucks each to get the ball rolling. (One hundred dollars then was not a small amount!) So we had about twelve thousand in the bank to make a start. We worked it out that we were about thirty-five thousand short but the Manager of Westpac in Ballina said, "Yeh mate, you're right!" So he lent us the money and away we went!

We got a lot of better blocks and built the clubhouse. When we got it going we applied for a liquor licence that enabled us to open every fortnight and make a few quid. At that particular time the sports clubs threw in probably a thousand each. We decided to go for a full licence but we ran into a lot of opposition, which cost us a lot of money. Some members of the public were against it and we had to go to court a few times but we could never get the case heard. We weren't going to give up and we battled on and on for about three years. We then found out from the Lands Department that being a public reserve barred us from holding a licence. They said, "You can't have a licence on a public reserve! You can on crown land but not on a public reserve!" They then went to the Minister and came back to us saying that we were allowed to cut a bit of land off the reserve and have a licence. So we did that. The land on which the clubhouse stands is still on the reserve, but we pay a lease for it now. So that is how we got our licence after so many years.

Then you wouldn't read about it, the whole town started to change.

All the young people were growing up and there were no young people moving in. All the kids we had were going away to high school and playing their sports at high school. We couldn't put any teams together and the rugby league second division moved away and then disbanded. So we had these beautiful sports fields, which we had to keep mowed, and everything - and no one used them! There we were trying to raise money to get the sports club going - and no sports! For a while we thought we had done all that work for nothing.

We came up with the idea to build a nine-hole golf course. The Lands Department stipulated that the golf course could only be built if the football and cricket fields were retained and maintained as priority over golf. You can't have a golf course without water! But Ballina Shire Council piped in purified water from their Coolgardie sewerage plant to each of the greens and we were in business. The golf course with cricket pitch and football field and the club house are great assets to Wardell. The Council slashes the rough and the golf club looks after the greens. Volunteers keep the club humming - I'll see you there on a Friday night!

David Daley speaking with
Mike Rushby

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