

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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A New Life for a well loved Hall

On 20 February this year a meeting of the Wardell and District Progress Association, that was well advertised and open to the public, passed a motion, after considerable discussion over several months, to ask the Ballina Shire Council to take over the ownership of the hall.

The current owners - The School of Arts - cease to be owners as of 31 December this year. An enthusiastic group of local residents has agreed to form a committee to run the hall.



Wardell & District War Memorial Hall

The Heart of Wardell

On 18 May 1927 the new building of the Wardell School of Arts was opened in Richmond Street. It had a floor of first class teak, a cinema projector and a stage, a billiard room, and a 1000 book library.

The hall was used for weddings, birthdays, funeral wakes, cinema shows, and amateur dramatics. The local schools used the hall and an indoor bowls club was just one way of raising revenue. A couple of formal balls were held each year and Cane Festivals were held during the 1970s.

area. Then things changed so that work took people away, only for them to return home at the end of the day to be entertained by television. Things are changing again. There is a new community awareness about. People want to do things. They want to use the hall again for education, entertainment and community access.

The new committee is President John Stead, Vice President Mike Rushby, Secretary Jodi Wilcox, Treasurer Mike Bardell, members Trish Tindall, Lois Cook, Pat Carney and Sue McCowan.

In those days most members of the community worked in the Wardell

For more information, telephone 6683 4185 or 6683 4060

Some Hall Identities



Harry Law - Cane farmer and businessman. Past Treasurer, Secretary and President for many years.



The late **Allan Lumley** - Past Treasurer, Secretary and President for many years and also a trustee.



Ron Rosolen - The Wardell Potter and Senior Deputy Captain of the Wardell Fire Brigade. Hall trustee since 1995



The management, security and maintenance of the hall has, in recent years, rested upon the shoulders of **Mike Bardell**.



St Patrick's Church. Holy Week Ceremonies.

Holy Thursday - 7 pm.

Good Friday - 3 pm.

Holy Saturday - 7 pm.

Everyone is most welcome!

Sister Larelle



**Australia's
BIGGEST
MORNING
TEA**

Thursday 16 May
from 9.30 to 12.00 noon.

Wardell & District War Memorial Hall

Sponsored by the Wardell Knit & Knat.

A gold coin donation for entry, lucky
door prize, raffle tickets.

A plate for morning tea would be
appreciated.

**Your support will raise vital funds
for cancer research, prevention
and support services.**

A great time for friends to enjoy tea.

Rose Leeson. Telephone 6683 4277

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Sister Larelle Lavery.

In the Australia Day Ceremonies in Ballina Shire, Larelle was a nominee for Volunteer of the Year. She was also nominated for Australian of the Year and her greatest delight was that Adam Gilchrist (the great Australian cricketer!) wrote her a letter telling her of the nomination. The local nomination acknowledged Larelle and the community at Wardell but also the Sisters of Mercy who received Larelle as a postulate back in 1956. Larelle is pictured here with the two certificates that record her nominations.

© The Newsletter of the Central B Community of The Sisters of Mercy in Grafton.

THE WARDELL & DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL HALL

A workshop involving Ballina Shire Councillors took place at The Council Chambers on 11 February 2013.

The workshop was chaired by Mayor David Wright. Present were Councillors Ben Smith, Keith Johnson, Paul Worth and Sharon Cadwallader. The General Manager Paul Hickey and Strategic & Community Services Group Manager Steve Barnier attended. Wardell observers were Pat Carney, Rose Leeson, Mike Bardell and Mike Rushby.

Mayor David Wright said that Ballina Shire Council has the opportunity to help Wardell to help themselves.

If the hall is to be taken over by Ballina Shire Council, then essential work needs to be done.

A maintenance audit of the hall had been carried out for Council by Tecton Building Services. Their report shows that considerable work needs to be done to the hall to make it safe. It further indicates that additional work needs to be done to make the hall more useful.

Mayor David Wright said that Ballina Shire Council would not run the hall but would 'lease' the hall to a responsible committee which would raise its own funds.



Mayor David Wright.

The committee named on page 1 has volunteered to manage the hall. It has been welcomed as a sub-committee of the Wardell and District Progress Association by Pat Carney the President of the Association, which is an incorporated body.



Wardell Public School

Wardell Public School is an integral part of the Wardell community, which is justifiably proud of it and the achievements of its students. Wardell Public School offers its students a wide range of quality educational, sporting and cultural experiences. The students enjoy attractive and well-resourced classrooms and school grounds. Staff maintain a quality learning environment and program, with student need the focus of all school planning and systems.

The students have been studying the history of Wardell over the last few weeks and will end their unit of work by participating in a walk around the local area with the Blackwall Historical Society and enjoy a picnic in the park as well. This is a wonderful way to learn about the people and the history of our local community.

Our Student Representative Council this year includes: President Kahmisha Irwin, Vice Presidents Dylan Haines and Hayden Ackland and Council members Shantelle Waters, Georgia Haines and Mikayla Fleming. They have been very busy planning their fundraising endeavours for the year.

The students of Wardell Public School would like to extend an invitation to the local Wardell community to join them on Thursday 28 March for a sausage sizzle and to watch the Hat Parade. The students will be making their own decorated hats to wear in the parade and are very excited about the upcoming event.

David Owen Principal



Our Student Representative Council 2013



Blackwall Historical Society Inc.
% GPO Wardell, NSW 2477
ABN 75 608 492 789
blackwall_history@yahoo.com.au

2013

Our office at the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall is open on Thursday afternoons from 1.00 to 3.00 pm. or by appointment - telephone 0466 998 817

The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Thursday of February with General Meetings on the first Thursday of April, June, August, October and December at 7.00 pm.

Membership per annum \$10 single \$15 per couple. Volunteers and new members are always welcome.

Everybody's History Matters

Sue's Kitchen

Corn Beef Fritters

Ingredients

1 cup cornflour
1 cup self-raising flour
1 egg + milk to mix, about 1 ½ cups
2 cups cooked, chopped corned beef
½ cup corn kernels
½ onion, diced
1 cup grated tasty cheese
¼ cup mango chutney
1 teaspoon fresh rosemary leaves cut finely
Salt and pepper

Method

Sieve the flour; beat in the egg and milk until smooth.
Add the chopped meat, onion, cheese, chutney, corn kernels, rosemary, salt and pepper.
Shallow fry spoonfuls in hot oil until golden brown. (I use rice oil)
Note: be careful as it cooks very quickly.
Turn and fry the other side.
Drain on kitchen paper.
Keep warm in oven until ready to serve.



Just right for
a rainy day

Sue F



Australian Red Cross

Branch President

Ruth Partridge

Telephone 6628 5751

Meetings 1st Wednesday
of the month at 9.30 am.

Wardell & District War
Memorial Hall

New members are
always welcome.

The Wardell Branch Red Cross



The Branch held its March meeting on the night of Wednesday the 6th of March as a way of introducing the local community to the work of the Red Cross. It was an enjoyable night with a lovely meal at the Wardell on the River Hotel where the above photo was taken. We now have another 6 members.

The Wardell Branch will celebrate 100 years next year and we are looking for some ideas for the centenary as well as making the branch more accessible for new, old and prospective members. The joining fee is \$5 and Wardell Post Office has membership forms.

To allow greater access to the Branch, we are hoping to hold some of our future meetings in the evening, probably followed by a meal. Keep an eye on the notice board outside the Post Office for upcoming events and outings. You do not need to be a member to attend.

Next meeting will be on April the 3rd at The Wardell & District War Memorial Hall at 9.30 am. for a cuppa. The meeting starts at 10.00 am. and usually runs for 30 minutes. ALL WELCOME!

Paddy Goff

Acting Secretary

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

Sat 13 April. 9.30 am - 3.00 pm (approx.)

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

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

Tickets \$55 p.p. from Sue at Wardell P.O. or telephone Margaret Kennedy on 6686 0027

Phill's Philosophy.

The trouble is, you think you have time!

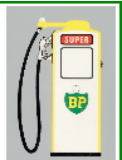
Buddha

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



**Patches Beach Dunecare meets on the
first Sunday of each month.**
Care for your land. Peter Lacey 02 6687 9580



THE SOUTH BALLINA BEACH VILLAGE COMMUNITY FIRE UNIT

We all need to be aware of the threat to life and property by fire - and we need to prepare for it. South Ballina Beach felt a bit isolated. If they were to dial 000 and report a fire, their first response would come from Wardell 20 minutes away. Their second would come from Ballina across the ferry. So, The Ballina Beach Village and Wilderness Camping Park formed their own Community Fire Unit. They have been equipped and trained by the Rural Fire Service to counter the immediate threat of fire pending the arrival of the Wardell fire truck.

Wardell Brigade Captain Ray Collyer plans more days of cooperative training down at the beach!

Meanwhile, down at South Ballina Beach, they prepare for anything!



The Community Fire Unit, under the watchful eye of Robert Fleming of the Wardell Rural Fire Brigade, practice pumping water from the resort swimming pool using their mobile pump and hose to attack a training target. The unit is supplied with a well-equipped fire trailer by the RFS. Being a CFU volunteer is about preparation, prevention and protection from bushfires.

Left to right, CFU Coordinator Bernard Grinberg, Rikki McDonald-Grinberg and Jason Trethewey. Unable to train but giving moral support was Lorraine Leuckel.



Wardell Sporting Recreation Club

Telephone 6683 4437

On Saturday 9th March the Wardell Sporting Recreation Club held a "Seafood and Roast Night". Approximately 130 people turned up for a feast of crumbed seafood (calamari, baby octopus and fish bites), prawns, oysters and crabs plus roast meats, salads and vegetables. All this was followed up with dessert of cake, rice pudding, ice cream and/or fruit salad. The seafood was delivered to the tables for guests to help themselves and the other food was available from the Bain Marie. There was live music for the guests to listen to – and a few brave souls got up and danced. We are planning to have two more "Seafood and Roast Nights" nights this year, one in June and another in September.

Recently the Club held a 90th birthday party for local identity Lester Lovett. The Club catered for 100 guests but, as there was an open invitation, we believe about 150 turned up to enjoy themselves and to wish Lester a happy birthday.

The golf course is available for games and practice throughout the week and for local competition on Sunday mornings.



The Club is open Sunday – Friday for drinks. On Friday nights we have meals from \$12:50. The Club can be booked for private functions and there is a kitchen available for hire. For further information, please call the Club on 6683 4437.

Kerry Storton

Previous copies of the Blackwall Bugle can be downloaded from the Ballina Shire Council website. Go to <http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/> and type Blackwall Bugle in the search panel at the top right corner of the page.



Art in the Heart of Empire Vale.

The students of Empire Vale Public School are busy studying, appreciating and creating artworks inspired by Australian artists, within their Creative Arts Program.

The Junior Class pupils are learning about the colourful art of Ken Done and Bronwyn Bancroft. To help them with their art development, both artists have generously offered to mentor our students and provide feedback on their art creations, through email communications.

Members of the Senior Class are undertaking artistic studies on John Coburn, Thea Proctor and

Grace Cossington-Smith. They will complete their unit on Australian artists by enjoying a gallery tour with educational guide, Miss Peggy Popart, who will show us *'The New Change: Australian Women Modernists Art Exhibition'* at the Lismore Regional Gallery.

The whole school community is invited to participate in the 'Empire Vale Archibald Portrait Prize' where students and community members have the opportunity to draw or paint a portrait of a significant Australian.

We welcome entries from our local area, with a range



SMART ARTISTS: Sally C, Rohan B, Shifan K and Molly W with their artworks inspired by the work of Australian Artist, Ken Done.

of prizes up for grabs. Please bring in your portrait to the school office by Wednesday the 3rd of April to be part of the fun.

The students' artworks, created during the Australian artists studies and the 'Empire Vale Archibald Portrait Prize' entries, will be on exhibition on Wednesday the 10th of April at 6pm. This special exhibition evening is being organised, managed and hosted by our enthusiastic Junior Class. We hope to see you there.

Karen Rantissi

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The March meeting of the Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation was a great success despite the rain. The money raised will be forwarded to the Crowley Nursing Home, Ballina. The new Vice President of the Auxiliary gave us an informal talk about the nursing home and what they had donated to it, including heat packs, commode chairs and a mens' shed that was proving to be very popular.

A letter of thanks was received from Secretary Olive Creighton to whom flowers had been sent during her stay in hospital. She and fellow member, Elaine Coleman, hope to be back on deck shortly.

The main prize for the afternoon was won by Cathy Campbell of Ballina who drew her own ticket!

The April afternoon will be held on the first Monday commencing at 1.30 pm. This will be Easter Monday and also 'All Fools Day', so watch out for pranksters!

On a personal note, a few weeks ago, I came home during a wild storm. There was no power on and I couldn't put the car in the garage so I was absolutely drenched by the time I got into the house. I glanced outside and was shocked to see that my garden shed had disappeared! It had blown away in the storm and to this day I have seen neither hide nor hair of it! It is probably in the cane - so no doubt the cane harvesters will be in for a shock one day.

Glen and Garry, a couple of handsome cane farmers, have erected a new shed for me. It's great to have good neighbours!

Betty Fernance.

Lois Cook

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I did Pitman's shorthand, book keeping and secretarial subjects. I then went to Sydney to stay with my Aunties.

My uncle Douglas Cook used to take me everywhere in the car until I was eighteen. He would show me different places and tell me the stories of those places. I went to Sydney and studied dance at Boden Weiser Dance School in Broadway. That's where I first met up with Lucy Jumawan the principal choreographer for National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA). I was accepted straight into the school and performed around Redfern and Long Bay Jail and at Parramatta male and female jails, with seasons at the Opera House each year and The Festival of Sydney. That was part of our training with the school. I lived in remote Aboriginal communities in North Queensland and the islands and the desert. I lived according to their customs and their law. We also made remote area tours of New South Wales and did workshops with the schools and kids out west and the North Coast. I went out to remote Aboriginal communities and lived there for a month or six weeks at a time to learn about their songs and dances. I watched ceremonies and danced with the people. It was a privilege that not many kids got. This was in the foundation days of the National Aboriginal & Islander Dance Association and Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia.

I'm a graduate of the school with a diploma in dance and I took all that training with me, so that when I came home with Uncle Douglas Cook and George, Ernest, Bunny, and Jerry talking about culture, it was like I never left. I would be telling them my thoughts and what I had learnt from where I had been and they would tell me more about my culture. So that is how I learnt a lot of stories from the old people; from the old history; what they remembered. I then left to go to the Northern Territory where I lived for two years, working for the National Aboriginal Conference Secretariat.

I was twenty-four years of age when I left the dance company and went to the Northern Territory. I

was twenty-five as State Branch Secretary looking after all our executives of the organisation. I coordinated national conferences for the first Aboriginal Broadcasting Association and the first Aboriginal Men and Women's Cattlemen's Association. We lobbied the Federal Government for mining royalties from gas and uranium and gold mining and Imparja TV in the Territory. Johnny Maccumba was the chairperson of the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) and the coordinator of the NAC. The NAC were lobbying the Federal Government for a National Land-Rights Bill, which was envisaged as a springboard for other land-rights in Australia nationally. NAC tried to have this bill legislated in Federal Parliament back in 1984 but, during that period of lobbying, the government decided to liquidate the NAC, the only voice Aboriginal people had in parliament.

Coming back to NSW I started work with the Bundjalung Tribal Society and worked part time with Pastor Frank Roberts for a year while the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Bill was being enforced. My first husband Ronald, an artist and musician, died out in the desert whilst practicing his art. I was still able to dance and act and I did shows and plays at NORPA. At one stage I left the Land Council and went down to Sydney where I was involved in the setting up of Bangarra Dance Company of Australia. I was their bookkeeper, tour manager and dancer. I worked with them for about a year until my brother got sick in a hospital in Sydney. I wanted to be with him before he passed away. I helped set up the main structure of the Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia and toured with them for a year.

I had started workshops with the local theatre groups with my first husband Ronald Ansell in Lismore and we had toured around New South Wales with Brainstorm Productions. I did some work and choreography back and forth between here and Sydney. Later, a play called "No Sugar!" with NORPA, directed by Bob Maza. The Northern Rivers Performing Arts Association in Lismore accepted me as a student studying performing arts while setting up an Aboriginal Performing Arts workshop. Concluding the season with the production of the play

"Yeugembah Durung" funded by Northern Rivers Health. Later I set up an Aboriginal Corporation in Lismore called Goobah Goobah Koori Theatre Company. I worked for them for six or seven years recruiting kids from the streets and some people from the theatre workshop. There were people involved with lighting and sound and actors. I got a lot of interest from street kids in Lismore and Ballina. The kids would come around and watch rehearsals and want to get involved. I was able to get funding from an Aboriginal Community Development Program attached to Kurrachee Co-operative in Coraki with Russell Kapeen. He gave us a work cell to help pay the bills. Those young people still teach Aboriginal culture and heritage. I took the kids on field trips to Canberra to gather their own family history and incorporate that knowledge into their performances.

I left Goobah Goobah when I decided to study laws at the University of New South Wales. I did eighteen months down there and won a couple of scholarships. I married again and have two daughters aged fourteen and sixteen. I keep myself focused and have been working with schools, universities, and police crime prevention programs. My website is www.aboriginalculturalconcepts.com

Martin Sharpe OBE was the person who inspired me to paint. I stayed at his place while a student of Arts/laws in Sydney for 7 months. That's where I first picked up a canvas and started painting. Martin bought me my first canvas. These days I prepare tour itinerary and send it to my clients. When they OK the itinerary, they bring their own buses and I organize their meals accommodation, day trips and evening entertainment. Guest artists come and perform like "Dhinawan Dreaming". This year I am studying Community Development at Tranby College in Glebe and I hope then to involve the Wardell community in my work. I am a performer of Traditional and Contemporary dance, and director of Theatre and festivals, I choreograph performances and lead my tours. I would like this community to get involved as I feel it would help get the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall moving again.

Lois Cook

“We’re all part of a new dreaming”

Lois Cook speaks with Mike Rushby

<http://www.aboriginalculturalconcepts.com/index.html>

I became interested in history because I was tormented at school about the name Cook. The teachers and others kept saying things like “You’re not full blood how did you get that name Cook?” It was then that I decided to trace the history of my ancestors and see what it was all about. I have been interested in culture from the word go. My uncles told me stories and I ask questions like, “Why don’t we speak our language?” They told me that if you got caught speaking your own language, you got jailed! So I was careful not to talk when outsiders were around. A lot of the people that came to Cabbage Tree Island were brought down from Lismore, Casino, Coraki and Bonalbo by the Welfare Board. I was a very inquisitive child and always had a question for the old people. I always got an answer.

It was a real family thing talking about family history. Talking about what my parents, grandparents and great grandparents had taught them. About what had happened to them during the massacres. How they moved from one place to another; how they stayed protected; how they missed out on getting killed. I talked with Douglas, who was my Father’s uncle – I spent two years with him talking about land rights to protect the country before he passed away. He named the Land Council Jali. Douglas pushed me to the front line, when I grew up, negotiating with the Federal Government, State Government and local councils. While I was with him, he said he spoke five different languages and that his father spoke more languages. He did some travelling up to Far North Queensland to the Cape York Peninsular and back and was with the ground defense in Darwin in case the Japanese landed. Douglas was involved in ceremonies with his father as a young man. He said that our people came from here and that his father was known as the man from Ballina; that his mother survived the massacre at Ballina and came to Wardell. Somehow she

escaped the massacre at Lennox Head and the one at King’s Caves (*now known as Whites Beach*) and another at the Everglades just south of Byron Bay where they were camping near Tallows Creek. A mercenary ship entered the bay when it was open to the sea and shot their cannons at my ancestors, fire balls in the sky.

I was born at Kempsey in my Mother’s Country Dungutti. My Dad, Lewis Cook, was born at Cabbage Tree Island. He was about fourteen when he left school after the sixth grade at Cabbage Tree Island and started work. He travelled up and down between Newcastle and the Queensland boarder working on small crops, sugarcane, cork-wood and millet. He was also the head sawyer at the Kempsey sawmill as a seasonal worker during the timber season. That’s how he met my mother Lurline in Kempsey. He also worked on the railway lines in Newcastle where we lived on the side of the railway tracks in a tent. There were quite a few of us kids. That was in the days of the Aboriginal Protection Board before Aborigines were allowed to vote.

Mum and Dad really put it in our heads that we had to have an education and just try harder. We stuck together as a family. The Mission Manager used to come and check up on us all the time when we lived on Cabbage Tree Island. It was there that I had the opportunities to listen to the stories of my Uncles and Grand Uncles – Jerry, Bunny, George Cook, Uncle Ernest, Uncle Douglas, and Uncle Henry. They were very popular around here at the time for their skills and craftsmanship. All these uncles used to come around to Great Grandfather’s house a lot. They would sit down there and crack nuts for us. We had this huge garden and they would have a fire and tell us stories before we went to bed. I played football and cricket with the kids and with Uncle Ernest Cook or David Bolt.



My mother taught me a lot. She made me very responsible as a child. There were twelve kids but one of my brothers had died at birth. I was the second oldest but I was treated as the oldest and my Mother relied on me heavily to look after the children and to do the chores. I couldn’t even go to school without bathing four of them before I left the door. My Dad worked at two jobs and it was pretty hard for him feeding eleven kids. In those days there was only the work force - there was no dole - no handouts.

I had done my infant schooling in Sydney from grade 1 to grade 3. So they took me straight to Ballina Primary School when I was eight years old. I liked it there but it was different when I went to Ballina High School. I think I was pretty arrogant at that time with all the hard work I was doing at home and all the bitter comments from non-indigenous people. I just toughened up and ignored them all. When I lived at Cabbo we had tutoring on the Island two nights a week after school. That got me to settle with my education a bit. I made it my intention to do better. So that’s how I worked to get respect.

I left Ballina High and went to St Mary’s College where I was happy. I won a bursary to continue my education into university but decided to go to Lismore TAFE for a secretarial course instead.

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