

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

Issue # 27 December 2013

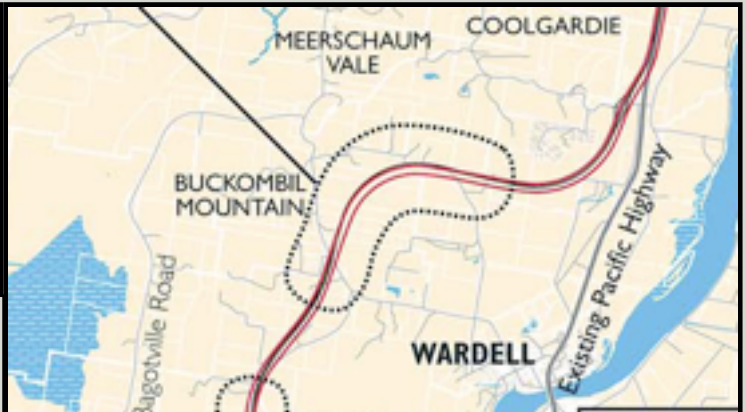
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http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-RCW-54-46-21&c=162

Highway to Happiness?

Those of us who now live close to the Pacific Highway are overjoyed to hear that positive action is underway to build the new motorway. The surveyors are out and about. Contracts have been signed for preliminary work.



Detail from www.rms.nsw.gov.au concept design.

There are great economic benefits to be derived from an efficient road transport system. There are great social benefits when a highway is moved away from urban areas. When the new Pacific Highway is built, we will be able to breath again the fresh air and hear the surf at Patches Beach. We will be able to listen again to the birds or to good music. We can send the kids out to the local shop and enjoy a backyard barbecue.

But what about those members of our community who must make sacrifices so that the majority can benefit? The 'Blackwall Bugle' has had, since issue number 2, the masthead at the top of this page. It depicts the Blackwall Range as seen from the Back Channel farm of Harry and Dallas Law. The 'Bugle' went to see them recently.

The Law's main farm at Lumleys Lane with three homes, large machinery sheds, their heritage, their business and what was to have been their future is to be divided by the blade of a bulldozer of the Roads and Maritime Services -

to be replaced by a concrete highway. The price we pay is the loss of highly productive farmland for ever. The price the Laws pay is the shattering of all their dreams and the negating of generations of sweat and toil.

John and Ann Law came out to Australia from Scotland in 1842 and settled in Harwood. Their daughter Barbara married Charles Law who was from a different Law family. About 1890 their son James and his wife Harriet came north to Wardell, swimming their

horses across the Richmond at Law's Point. They settled as share farmers at Lumleys Lane, clearing the bush and making a dairy farm. They named the farm 'Stonehenge' due to the vast amount of rocks they had to pick up and move by hand. Later they bought the farm from the Lumleys. They ran dairy cattle which they milked by hand. They grew corn, raised pigs and they built a magnificent house from timber that was milled by the Randles of Coolgardie out of a single blackbutt tree.



Five generations of Laws look down from a wall that is to be bulldozed.

A couple of logs from the single tree that was milled by the Randles at Coolgardie and used to build the Law homestead at Stonehenge. ➡

The two young men were the sons of James Law. They both fought in the Boer War in South Africa between 1889 and 1902 but returned home to the farm. Two other members of the Law family fought for their country in the Great War. The daughters of James Law, Aunty Renee and Aunty Carrie, lived and worked on the farm. They never married. Carrie's fiancé was killed in action in the Great War (WW I).



The Laws were invited by Ballina Shire Council to have their home at Stonehenge listed as a heritage building. They declined, because Dallas and his wife Trish wanted to restore the old homestead as a family home. They borrowed a lot of money and hired craftsmen to renovate the house in traditional style. It was then listed as a 'building of significance' but that apparently has not deterred the RMS from declaring they will demolish it. **Below**, the house being renovated. The two palm trees were planted on the golden wedding anniversary of Dallas' great grandparents.

The Law family don't expect to receive from the RMS sufficient funds in compensation to buy another similar farm. They might get enough to buy a decent house and will continue to work their Back Channel farm. They might even head into Wardell where the peace will only be disrupted by the occasional rumble of cane trucks.

When you drive the new highway, be thankful for what progress has brought you. But spare a thought for the pioneer farmers who opened up this country so many years ago and for their descendants who have put food on our table. They are about to lose their birthright.



The dining room and the bathroom.

The house is tastefully furnished with period furniture. The claw-foot bath was found in the paddock where Dallas' brother kept turtles. It was saved and restored.



All things fishy



An exhibition of original paintings by Coolgardie artist Pauline Charley at the Sirocco Cafe in River Street Ballina, November-December 2013

The colourful canvases were executed using artist quality acrylic paints and inspired by the movement and form of fish and the play of light with water.

For Pauline the process from drawing to finished work is quite an enjoyable yet consuming journey. Observation, skill, technique, intuition and spontaneity are key to her success as an artist.

Pauline, who is North Coast born and self taught, paints mainly landscapes, nature, natural elements and still life in acrylic, water colour, gouache and ink on canvas and paper.

Pauline's work can also be found at the Art Aspect Gallery in Lismore, the Grant Street Clinic in Ballina and the Ramada Hotel in Ballina.

Wardell Market

The Wardell & District War Memorial Hall Committee is to hold a market day at the hall on 14 December to help with the cost of upkeep of the hall. It will be just in time for those unique Christmas presents for special people. The setup time is 7.00 am and the market will be open from 8.00 am until 1.00 pm.

Stall holders' costs are \$20 per stall and they need to have their own insurance cover. To book a stall, telephone Sue McCowan on 02 6683 4078 business hours or after hours 0420 455 334. By supporting Sue, the community and the hall will benefit and the market will become a regular feature.

Fighting Fire with Fire!

A crew of volunteer firefighters from the Wardell Brigade drove South in the Meerscham Vale fire truck to help the beleaguered residents of the Blue Mountains.

After a very busy time they returned safely home.

Seen here at the Wardell Fire Station are Captain Ray Collyer, Andy Collins, Paul Gillett and Deputy Captain Jo Heber. On the same deployment, but in another fire truck, volunteers Vic Bridges and Karl Hearn gave the devastating fires their best shot.





Ivy Carter

Ivy's story can be read at: http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/cp_content/resources/Issue_20.pdf

Ivy has sold her house in Wardell and moved to Coraki to be near her daughter Anne. She is held in high esteem and with warm affection by so many.

At a large gathering of friends in the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall, Pat Carney spoke for everyone when he presented Ivy with a Certificate of Appreciation for over 60 years of dedicated support to our community. The meeting heard tributes from Ruth Partridge, the president of the Wardell Branch of the Red Cross and from Rose Leeson, for the Blackwall Historical Society and the Knit 'n Knat

Group. Bill Partridge acknowledged Ivy's devotion to the Wardell Methodist Church and Narelle Law recalled the very close friendship between Ivy and the Law family for over sixty years.

Shirley Strangman presented Ivy with a beautiful arrangement of hand-crafted artificial flowers which should last a lifetime. Everyone enjoyed themselves. There was no show of sadness - only warmth and affection for someone who has endeared herself to our community.



The 'Bugle' pulled up at the Wardell BP Service Station to get diesel fuel. Phill Reeves said, "You know the Council has been rebuilding the southern end of Pimlico Road? Well their excavator dug up something really interesting the other day!"

"What was that?" the 'Bugle' asked.

"A pykost!"

"What's a pykost?"

"Four dollars fifty! How many would you like?"



Australian
Red Cross

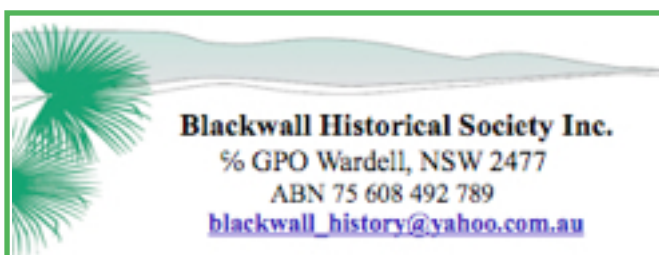
Branch President
Ruth Partridge 6628 5751
Meetings
1st Wednesday of the month 5.30 pm
Wardell on the River Hotel
New members always welcome.



The Wardell & District Progress Association

The Wardell and District War Memorial Hall is combining with the residents of Richmond Street to light up the neighbourhood to celebrate Christmas. Come along and bring the kids. It is a family event for it anticipates the commemoration of the birth of baby Jesus.

Everyone is very welcome to attend the sausage sizzle at the hall on Wednesday 4 December and new residents are particularly encouraged to join in the festivities.



The Blackwall Historical Society conducted a "voyage through time" along the Richmond River from Ballina to Wardell and return on Saturday 9 November 2013, using the *MV Richmond Princess*. 44 passengers enjoyed an informative and relaxing voyage.

BHS President Margaret Kennedy thanks the crew, the supporting staff and the travellers for a memorable outing. She wishes all readers of 'The Blackwall Bugle' a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enquiries, Telephone Barbara: 0466 998 817



Wardell Sporting Recreation Club

Telephone 6683 4437.

Recently the Club held its AGM. The following people were elected: President – Rod Durheim, Treasurer – Susan Steel, Vice President – Paul McLean. Board members elected were: Colin Rixon, Russell Clifford, Warren Barnes, Graham Dutton, Amos Kingdom and Kerry Storton. After the AGM, Robert Taylor was also nominated and elected to the Board.

Membership fees are due. If you have not received a renewal notice, please call into the Club and we will have one for you.

Please remember to put this in the diary. The Kids' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 7 December. This is aimed at children – big and small – and is open to all members of the community. A very special visitor is expected around 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

We would like to thank all members of the community for your patronage to the Club and thank all who have helped make this a successful year – either as a patron or for all the help as a volunteer.

The Club is open in the evening and provides meals on Friday evenings. Please telephone the Club on 6683 4437 for bookings and further information.

Kerry Storton

Richmond River Cane Growers' Association Ltd

Australia is the third largest raw sugar supplier in the world and eighty percent of the product is exported. The sugarcane industry is a key feature of our local economy. It provides work for many who are directly employed in the growing, harvesting and transport of sugarcane and in the production of the raw sugar. It has a major impact on the local economy. Cane farmers are consumers too. They build houses, and use fuel to produce their crop. They go shopping and send their children to school. Without them, this would be a poorer place.

Every part of the sugarcane plant is used. Even the soil that is inadvertently swept up in the harvesting process is recycled back to the farm. Then a new season begins.





Stronger, Smarter!

Cabbage Tree Island Public School has been an important part of the community since 1893. Emphasis is on literacy and numeracy, morale, discipline and leadership. Parents and teachers are very involved in the education and welfare of the students. Cabbage Tree Island PS is a school that promotes excellence and the Stronger Smarter philosophy reinforces the importance of a positive cultural identity and being as smart as you can. We are all smart in different ways. Our students have a lot to be proud of and they don't have to lose their identity to be successful at school. The school encourages participation in competitive sport and students need support from parents, school and community alike.

All students participate in school swimming carnivals and cross-country events. This is the second consecutive year that our students have qualified for State athletics and the second time this year that a relay team has made it to State. In Term 1 our swimming relay team qualified for State as well and came 9th in the State for swimming. The



Nitokha Ferguson, Malaki Ferguson, Rico Avery, Desmond Ferguson.

athletics team won the Small Schools' Athletics Championship. After competing at Alstonville, Fernleigh, Byron Bay, then Lismore, they went on to Homebush for the State Athletics Carnival in October. Out of all the teams that entered the competition, Cabbage Tree Island School came sixth in the State - which is a remarkable achievement for athletes Nitokha, Malaki and Desmond Ferguson and Rico Avery and for their school.

Dyonne Anderson Principal

Pimlico News

Telephone 6683 4384

The November charity afternoon, which was held on an extremely windy day, was in aid of the Ballina Ex-Servicemen's Home Auxiliary. The Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation has supported the auxiliary for many years and we will continue to work with their new president Joyce Ryan.

The auxiliary holds a hoiy afternoon each month and various raffles during the year. They recently bought two electric chairs and two medical chairs. Visitors won many prizes during the afternoon but the main prize was won by our new Secretary Colleen Lowry.

The final afternoon for the PLCO for the year will be on the first Monday of December commencing at 1.30 pm. It will be our Christmas party to thank all visitors for their support throughout the year. There will be extra prizes, a variety stall, a second-hand stall and a sumptuous afternoon tea. The December takings will go towards the cost of running the hall including the insurance. The PLCO will resume after Christmas on the first Monday in February in aid of the Rescue Helicopter Appeal.

It has been a dry spring in Pimlico but farmers have completed their harvesting and planting and now look forward to some steady soaking rain. The water carrier has been kept busy filling household water tanks.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Betty Fernance

David Judge.

Continued from page 8

"When I finished my four years I stayed up there doing shift work for another twelve months then came back to Ballina where I was lucky enough to score a job with Jack Humphries, down on the river bank, as a boilermaker welder or lackey, in a little fabrication shop where the arcade now is - opposite the pelican park. I did much general fabrication - handrails and a lot of trawl work for the trawlers - overhead gear and trawl boards. We supplied many of the builders around town with general fabrication. I stayed there for about five years.

"I then joined the Ballina Slipway and Engineering at the corner of Martin and River Streets. The business was part of a larger marine and engineering business, S.G. White Pty Ltd, which operated in Sydney from 1926 to 1975. At the Ballina Slipway, I built a couple of boats, called *Karmys* or fishing trawlers for the Indonesian Government. They were each about one hundred feet in length. They were all steel boats and among the first to be fitted with a quartz nozzle around the rudder to give them extra power like a tug. They were trawlers with massive gear. The main winch would have been ten foot in diameter and there were two of those on each boat. When they did the bollard tests for the pulling power they let a few of us on board to give us a bit of a thrill but I've never been to sea in my life! I've done a lot of work with trawlers and I've been invited out but never took up the offer.

"There were over a hundred workers at the slipway in those days. It was a pretty big engineering business founded by S. G. White. It built and serviced whale chasers, cargo boats and tugs of all sizes. It carried out major renovation on the wartime *Krait* and on the Manly ferry the *South Steyne*. I did some work up at the dry dock at Riley's hill. I was the last one to work on the dredge, the *Street*, before it was finally decommissioned. When the Slipway closed in 1989 Stuart White moved the business to Piper Drive in Ballina's Southern Cross Industrial Estate where he opened Metalcast Australia.

"I was married by then and living in Ballina. I met Lorraine when she was working in the Bank of New South Wales in Ballina. I thought that being in the bank she might have had lots

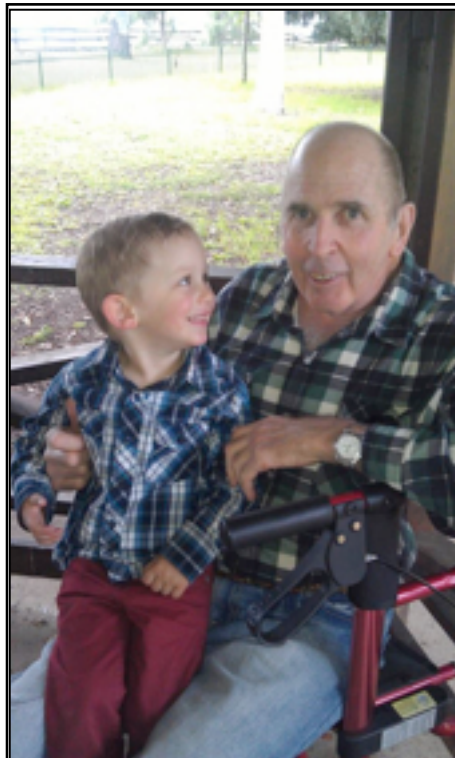
of money. The joke was, of course, that she knew how much I had! She was a teller and I needed a date for a wedding. The boss's daughter was getting married and I thought Lorraine was a pretty good bet so I put the hard word on her and she was silly enough to say, "Yes." So we dated for a while and then got engaged. We married on 30 December 1972.

"Mum and Dad and I pooled our money and bought the large block at 40 Carlisle Street. The sixteen acre block stretched both sides of the highway but we sold the Eastern side to Merve Lindsay who moved Norma's Nursery down there. We built our house and finished it just in time for our wedding.

"When we first moved in, I worked four or five years at the slipway then they started to downsize. We built five boats down there then they laid everyone off. I worked for NORCO in the cheese and butter factory and the ice-cream factory for a while on the production side. It was an eye-opener and it was shift work, which was good money. I knew all the maintenance staff there. They kept insisting that I was wasting my time on production and I then went back to engineering, first with Reading Engineering Services in South Lismore and then McKee Engineering. I then came back to Ballina and got a job with my old boss who was moving out of the workshop on the riverbank. He had bought a block of land in Clark Street and he got me in to build a new workshop. We moved from the river to Clark Street probably in 1978 and I ended up working twenty-five years with him. Then I got crook. I fell off a ladder and stuffed my knee up. I couldn't work for a while and had to have a knee reconstruction. So I took my long service and left.

"I then started work at Evans Head where I did fabrication for a couple of years. They had the contract for new Aldi stores and Bunnings stores that went up. I also built protective rails for overhead bridges on the new motorway in the Brunswick heads area. Just on Christmas time 2008 when work traditionally slackened off over Christmas because the building industry slows down, I got crook with my lungs from the good old days of galvanised welding. I left work and didn't go back.

"Lorraine and I have a great family of three kids all born in Lismore



Dave Judge with grandson Bob.

Hospital. They went to school in Wardell and on to Alstonville High. Paul is our oldest son. He has a wife and two sons and is doing all right for himself as the manager of a dairy property at Dobies Bight the other side of Casino. Craig is down in Sydney as a Highway Patrol officer patrolling around Randwick and Bondi and all that area. He has a son and a daughter. Our youngest, Brett, is a motor mechanic and co-owner of Dancer's Car Care in Piper Drive Ballina. He has a lovely daughter. Brett did his apprenticeship with Trevor Dancer and finished up buying the business off him - probably three years ago now. They are going well.

"I've been a firefighter for about forty years having been a founder member of the Wardell Fire Brigade on 18 November 1974. During my time I have been Deputy Captain and President of the Wardell Brigade and have attended very many incidents in the Wardell area as well as the Sydney fires of 2001-2002 and the Canberra fires of 2003.

"Last year my back was playing up. My Gold Coast surgeon recommended spinal surgery just before Christmas. I woke up in recovery to find I was paralysed down one side. There has been little improvement and we had to get out of Wardell because we couldn't look after our place anymore. Our new house is being built at Ferngrove. It will be wheelie-walker friendly so, with Lorraine by my side, I will survive!

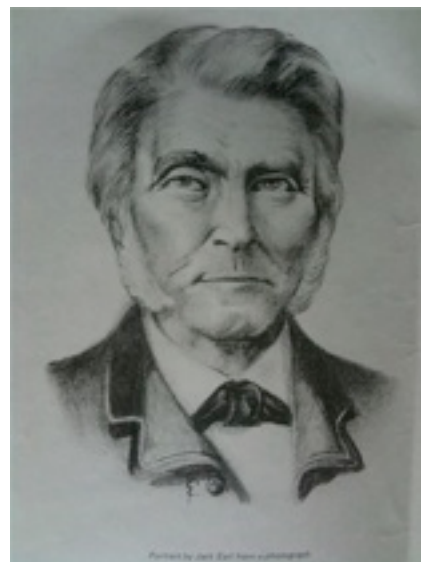
David Judge

The Boat Builder

How do you draw a line between ships and boats? David Judge has built boats almost all his working life. His ancestor, Great Great Grandfather Henry Gillett, built wooden ships but they were probably no larger than some of the steel boats that David Judge built.

Henry Gillett was born in Ireland in 1801 and trained as a ships carpenter. He left England for Australia on a disastrous voyage when, 60 days out at sea, the ship caught fire and sank killing most of the 500 migrants on board including his own wife and child. The survivors made it to Rio de Janeiro and eventually Australia. Henry Gillett built ships at Kissing Point, Parramatta including the Susan on which Henry and the joint owner Thomas Small sailed to the Clarence River. The Susan became the first sailing ship to cross the bar in 1836. Henry Gillett was the first recorded white man to step ashore on the beach at the Clarence.

Clarence Valley Gen Web <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswclare/biohistory/henrygillet.htm>



Henry Gillett

David Judge

speaking with Mike Rushby.

"Henry, who was my maternal great great grandfather then took up ship building on the Clarence and shipped red cedar from the Richmond. He married again and his second wife is buried at Terranora Point. They all settled at Coldstream where he built several ships. He used to come to the Richmond bringing cedar cutters. They cut cedar logs and he took the logs back. At one stage his ship was wrecked down South but Henry built another ship up on the Tweed. He was a real old ship builder but then he gave that away and settled on the other side of Coutts Crossing.

"My other great grandfather, David Judge, came out from England as a free settler and married a Kimmorley who was the daughter of a convict who had been transported at the age of 17 for stealing a handkerchief and a pair of shoes. My father George Edward Judge was the first member of the family to settle on the Richmond. He was born in Glen Innes in 1914. His father died from pneumonia, sustained in the first world war, and is buried in Abbeville, France. I was born in 1949 at Grafton and spent my early years there. I had an aunt who lived at Kangaroo Creek South West of Grafton near Coutts Crossing. She had a beef cattle property where we would go for weekends. That was pretty special. I went to school at South

Grafton Public School and Grafton High School. On leaving school I tried to get a couple of apprenticeships around Grafton but the prospect of training and working in Brisbane looked attractive.

"I went to Brisbane in 1966 at the age of sixteen to do a 4 year apprenticeship as a boilermaker. Luckily I had a great aunt and uncle and cousins living up there and I got a job with Evans Deakin at Rocklea. I started work the same day that decimal currency came in on a wage of \$15.00 per week. I did four years apprenticeship and then worked another year in Brisbane.

"At the weekends and holidays, I used to come down from Brisbane and give Dad a hand. Mum and Dad left Grafton in 1967 and came to Ballina and bought the milk, bread and paper run to the area covering Pimlico, Keith Hall and Empire Vale. The milk run started in Ballina through Pimlico to Broadwater three days a week and the other three days was through Empire Vale, Keith Hall and the other side of the River. He would pick up the mail from Wardell and do a roadside delivery on his way back into Ballina. He did that from 1967 to 1981.

"In 1981 he sold the mail contract to Edna Kane. When the dairy authority came into being, they more or less closed the milk side of Dad's business down. I knew all the people on his run. The cane was still cut by hand in those days so there were plenty of characters

around. There were cane-cutters' barracks on either side of most lanes through Empire Vale, Keith Hall and Pimlico. When the sugar was being transported from the Mill down to Sydney on the Tobago, the ship's crew would phone Dad and he would take milk down for them. Because he supplied the Broadwater shops, he was allowed to supply the ship too. The Doreys of Boundary Creek seemed to have a million and one kids and they were also good customers. When Dad retired, there must have been a hundred or more people at his farewell in November 1981. It was held near where the old Pimlico Post Office was on Riverbank Drive.

"Evans Deakin was a heavy engineering and shipbuilding company that had a dry dock at Kangaroo Point. They had a monstrous machine shop that could cater for anything that needed to be machined. Towards the end of my time they put me onto the section where the turbines for the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric were being built. A lot of that was done at Rocklea and transported down South. That was very heavy engineering. The veins in the turbines themselves were made from curved six-inch plate. It was all completely double fillet weld with double V preparation where the veins come onto the shell plate. They had to be completely welded through and x-rayed. **continued page 7**

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