

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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Mayley House for Sale

Clarence Lumley was a Wardell farmer and butcher who built Mayley House which he named after his bride Louisa May Bartlett. He was the youngest serving councillor with Tintenbar Shire when he enlisted in the army during World War I. He was killed in action at the Battle of Menin Road, Belgium on 20 September 1917. He was 33 years old.



Delia and Michael Bourke have owned Mayley for many years and managed it as a popular licensed restaurant and a setting for weddings and parties on the river at Wardell surrounded by beautiful gardens. They have maintained and restored the historic building to an extremely high standard. It features cedar and teak timbers throughout and polished timber floors.

But Delia and Michael are retiring and moving interstate to be with family and they are reluctantly selling this property which has been their home and their successful business. They have created a paradise for lovers to celebrate with friends their weddings and their anniversaries. Business people find the relaxed informal settings a haven for the reenergising of productive minds.

Upstairs there is a private parent's retreat which includes a large bedroom that opens onto a spacious

veranda that looks out onto stunning water views over the Richmond River. A carefully designed floor plan makes it easy to separate business and residence.

Take a stroll through the beautiful gardens and you will be captivated by the romance and history of the place. The large gazebo is great for outdoor entertaining or for hosting family barbecues and parties. There is a separate studio or second dwelling with a living room, two bedrooms, a full bathroom and kitchen plus a private outdoor area.

This is a place to create living memories for owners and guests. Delia and Michael have appointed Melanie Stewart as their agent. Her mobile phone number is 0421 560 936



Edwin Wilson

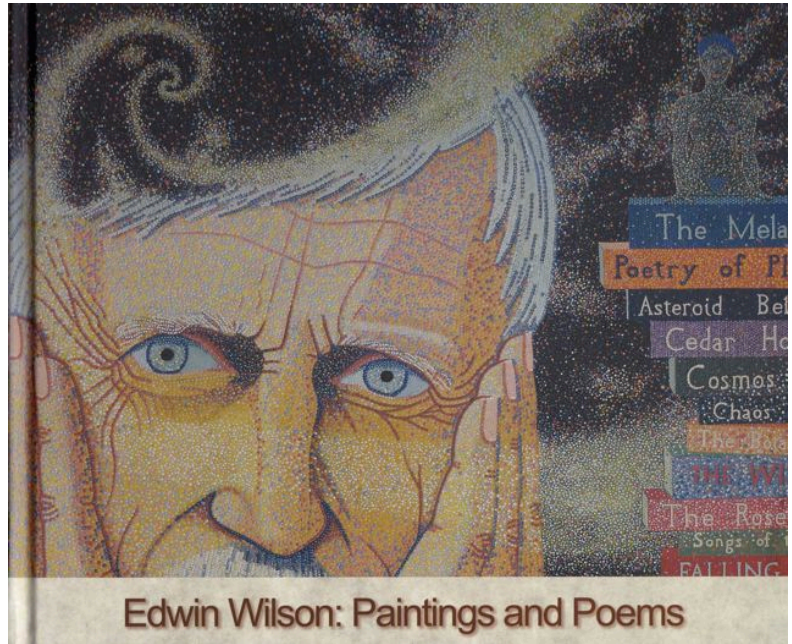
Edwin was born in 1942 the son of Edwin James (Tidge) Wilson a farmer at East Wardell. Tidge's parents and grandparents had farmed at East Wardell before him but Edwin left the district to spend his later childhood at Mullumbimby and Tweed Heads. He then went on to Armidale Teachers' College and graduated in science from the University of New South Wales. He was appointed to positions at The Australian Museum and Royal Botanic Gardens.

Following a distinguished career as a botanist, educator, a writer and poet, Edwin is also now a painter! He invites you to visit his latest exhibition. Entitled "**Stardust Painter-Poet**" which is to be hosted by the Royal Art Society at

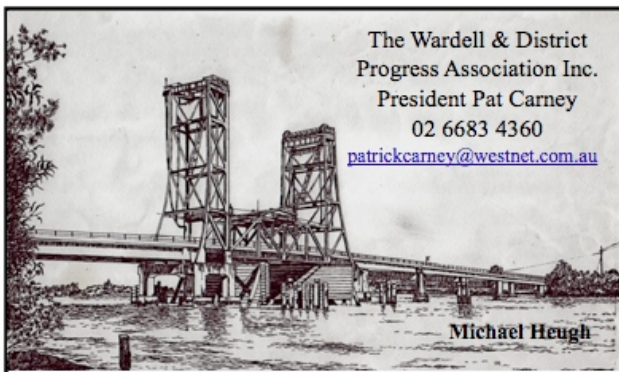
their Lavender Bay Gallery from 8 April 2016 until 1 May 2016. <http://www.royalart.com.au/>

The exhibition includes some of his early paintings, some student and studio nudes, portraits, landscapes and genre work, plus some larger-format paintings never exhibited anywhere before.

<http://www.edwinwilson.com.au>



Edwin wrote, "East Wardell is indeed my spirit place. According to family folklore old Charles Wilson was the first to settle on that part of the river, and his brother in law, John Riordan (they used the Irish spelling) took up considerable holdings on the other side of the river. My grandmother came from the farm next door and to the south of the Wilson farm. Her clan was the Byrnes/Watkins/Hibbs mob."



It has been a busy year for the Wardell & District Progress Association with much attention being given in support of the recommended route of the Pacific Highway. The Progress Association organised meetings with the RMS to keep the community informed. The meetings were well attended and much appreciated.

The Progress Association, together with the Hall Committee, also received a grant from Veterans Affairs to replace the war memorial which was damaged earlier in the year. A large crowd attended the dedication ceremony which was supported by Federal member Kevin Hogan and Ballina Shire Mayor David Wright.

The Wardell Hall Committee received a grant to replace the toilets in the hall and to add a new disabled toilet. This project was very well handled by John Stead and his team, supported by the progress association.

During the year we made a submission to Ballina Shire Council to construct a boardwalk along Bridge Street. This will improve connectivity between the two parts of town and hopefully be of great benefit to school children and the disabled. This project, with council support, should be completed in 2016.

A very busy year ended with our third "light up the hall" night which was well attended and enjoyed by the local children and parents.

The progress association meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every 2nd month with the next meeting on 17 February 2016. New and old residents are invited to come along with ideas and support to improve our great village.

Projects for next year include the painting of the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall. The Hall committee has already been informed that Bunnings Warehouse will donate 84 litres of paint towards the project.

Another project for next year is a disabled toilet for the park.

Pat Carney - President WPA



Light up the Hall

Early in December, Wardell experienced a most joyous community event. A large crowd braved the threatening storms to witness the switching on of the Lights at the Wardell & Community War Memorial Hall. We had a barbecue in the hall grounds with chefs Kevin and Peter Walsh and Barry Kremen. Sue Wardrobe provided the kids drinks. BP Wardell donated the gas. There was a chocolate wheel and ham raffles and refreshments galore.

The choir of Wardell Public School sang beautifully. Then the lights were switched on thanks to Russell Krampe, Justin Hetherington, Lee Davidson, Barry Kremen and Kevin O'Brien.

Photos by Mitch Monti



Well into the Christmas spirit, students of the Wardell Public School enthralled the crowd with their lovely singing and acting.

Marlene

Marlene Kemp died on 4 December 2015 in St Andrews Nursing Home, Ballina after a long and courageous battle against an ailment for which there is no cure. She left behind a devoted husband Rex and an adult daughter Linda and son Barry.

Marlene was born on 6 Feb 1940 in Christchurch New Zealand. She was the only daughter in the family and she had four brothers. She went to School at Rangarui but every day after school she and her brothers would work in their father's wood yard bagging firewood for sale to the public. So she was a worker from the start. Marlene was very close to her parents – particularly her father. After school she trained as a machinist. She came over to Australia when she was about twenty years old and Rex met her about two weeks later.

About half past three in the morning one day, Rex was driving for ABC Taxis on the North Shore and his was the only taxi on the road when the dispatcher called him up and said, "I've got a fare at Cammeray that wants to go to Neutral Bay. She is waiting at a public phone box because she has been to a party with a bloke who played up a bit. She left him to get a taxi home. She has a funny accent!"

That intrigued Rex. It turned out she was a Kiwi who had only been in the country a couple of weeks. Rex took her to her home and arranged to meet on the Sunday when he took her to the zoo! First date – he took her to the zoo!

Rex drove taxis for about four years and Marlene would go along as 'navigator'. That was quite illegal but the customers were amused. She worked at a restaurant in Sydney on the afternoon and evening shift. Rex would pick her up about half past nine and she would sit in the cab with him until half past twelve when he would drop her off home. That was the only way they could see each other. Marlene took Rex over to New Zealand to meet her family. They got married over there and lived there for over ten years. While Rex went out to work, Marlene looked after their farm where they ran a few pigs, cows and eighty sheep and raised the children.

When they came back to Australia, they were caravanning along the North Coast when, driving through Wardell, Marlene said, "This is where I want to be. We should build a house here." So they did and together they cut every piece of timber and drove every nail into the house that Marlene called home until she died.

In 1990 she and Rex joined the Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire service and for years she was an active firefighter both in the Brigade area and in out of area deployments with Rex and with others. Later she immersed herself in radio communications for major operations but arthritis in her shoulder, following a car accident as an eighteen-year old, began to restrict her ability to be an effective firefighter. So Marlene took on the task of Secretary of the Brigade and became an executive member of the Rural Fire Service Association where she represented the volunteers of Far North Coast Brigades at bi-monthly meetings in Grafton, and bi-annual meetings at State level.



Marlene never made an issue of the fact that as a young woman she had to undergo extensive surgery that had a lasting effect on her ability to enjoy life. She was in hospital for three months and thought she was going to die. Once released from hospital, community nurses would visit every day for six months to dress the wound and every day when she woke, there would be a smile on her face because she knew she was alive. That was 39 years ago – half her life – and many people never knew Marlene carried that burden, although she never made a secret of it.

The things that gave her the most reward were looking after Rex and caring for other people – in particular her elderly neighbour Dossi and the volunteer members of the RFSA. She also loved her garden that she missed so much when she had to enter St Andrews Nursing Home. Rex told me that in all the years of their marriage they would have had less than half a dozen arguments. That must be some sort of record!

The worst time for Rex was when he knew Marlene would not be coming home again. And he knew that she knew it too. Marlene would say that she wanted to go home - and Rex could not take her. She knew she was dying and she said, "Time is precious!" But neither could do anything about it.

Rex was trained as a mechanic and has a lot of experience with building demolitions. He has also counseled others in times of stress so he is well regarded in the community for his help and advice on almost everything. There were many at the funeral to support him in his time of grief.

Members of the Rural Fire Service from all over Northern New South Wales attended the funeral at Parkview in Ballina where the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was conducted by Senior Chaplain of the Rural Fire Service, Ian Spall. A spokesperson said, "Our hearts are heavy with sadness and tears, but our memories are full of the love and kindness that you Marlene gave over the years. All the people here today love you, salute you and thank you for being part of our lives."

So you've just had a hard day at the Office!

Those of us who live and work around Keith Hall and Empire Vale appreciate the valuable service given to the area by the Postie Gary Carr.

Without him, one fears the community might fall apart. If you know Gary, you would know his story.

There is an article in Blackwall Bugle #17 which tells how, as a fifteen year old boy he was swimming at Lake Ainsworth on Christmas Day 1964 when he dived into the lake from an approved diving tower. He hit the bottom and snapped his 5th and 6th vertebrae. He suffered immediate quadriplegia.

He received no compensation and his family was not well off. But Gary said, "You don't have a choice in life. You can't change the past. So you do what you can and you try to be decent to those around you."

After considerable time in hospital, Gary returned to Empire Vale where the community got behind him and recommended he be appointed Postmaster of the Empire Vale Post Office. With much dedication and with the help of his motorised wheel chair and his specially adapted Volkswagen combi van, Gary could handle all the Post Office work and would deliver the mail. In 2012 he married Adele and things were looking good.

Then, this year, on the lead up to Christmas, the Burns Point Ferry was closed for maintenance and Gary had to drive to Ballina via the Wardell bridge. On the return journey, just as he was leaving East Wardell heading North along River Drive, Gary's van and an on-coming car collided on a notorious bend. Both vehicles were 'write offs'. The other driver was evacuated by helicopter to the Gold Coast and survived.



Gary was taken by ambulance to Lismore Base Hospital. After extensive surgery, he was transferred to Ballina Hospital rehabilitation unit. His van and wheelchair were smashed in the accident and Gary sustained two more fractures to his already damaged spine, a shattered right hip and a broken leg.

Gary is home again fifty one years after he was first injured but he has a long journey to recovery. His wife Adele has taken on the responsibility of making sure the mail gets through. Christmas 2015 has been and gone. We wish Gary all the best for a good recovery and we honour him for his courage in adversity. How has your day been?

Wardell Public School P&C

The P&C Federation is committed to a free public education system which is inclusive of all, irrespective of culture, gender, academic ability and socio-economic status. Wardell Public School has a very active P&C Association that is working wonders for the school.

President Russell Krampe is very proud of his team that includes:

Prue Gray, Kirsty Sheppard, Fiona Lochrie, Jodi Wilcox, Cheryl Wilson, Tanya Vidler, Ryan Eckersley, Mellissa Cremin, Stevie Taylor, with teacher Deb Crealy and Principal David Owen.

Russell said, "This year we have turned over more than \$19,000 and have spent more than \$14,000 on items to benefit the students' educational experience.

"This year we have:

- bought new home readers for the children. (\$2,200)
- Subsidised excursions such as Healthy Harold, Taronga zoo, swim scheme and the K-2 excursion. (\$2,800)
- Spent \$3,000 on updating and subsidising school uniforms.
- Bought a new HD TV and stereo for the library (just over \$2,000)
- Spent nearly \$500 on school ground beautification.
- And bought a brand new shipping container worth \$3,000 in which to store all our gear - something we've never had before.

"All this was made possible by the teamwork and dedication of all our mums and dads and sisters, brothers and teaching staff who give their time to make our school stand out!

Russell Krampe

The Pacific Highway Upgrade



Kevin Hogan MP, the Federal Member for Page has put out a media release about the Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the Pacific Highway upgrade which indicates that SMEC Australia Pty Ltd is to complete the design work for the highway between Broadwater and Pimlico.

Mr Duncan Gay, the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight has said “The detailed design work will involve finalising road features such as drainage, and the locations of animal crossing structures such as culverts and underpasses to minimise the impact on species like emus and koalas. This is on top of 2500 direct jobs across the

whole Pacific Highway upgrade which have been created and as work on the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade increases, direct jobs will peak at 4000,” Mr Gay said.

“Separate design and build contracts will be announced for the Clarence and Richmond river crossings, which need to take into account flood modelling,” Mr Hogan added.

Pimlico News

2015 was another successful year for Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation as we were able to raise over \$2500 to support our local charities. We also raised sufficient funds to cover all necessary costs to maintain Pimlico Hall, and we thank Ballina Shire Council for their assistance by removing a tree stump and repairing the water tank overflow pipes.

Hoi recommences on Monday 1st February at 1.30 pm in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. We appreciate the support of the West Ballina Pharmacy, which provides goods for our raffle prizes. Everyone is welcome to come to our Hoi meetings.

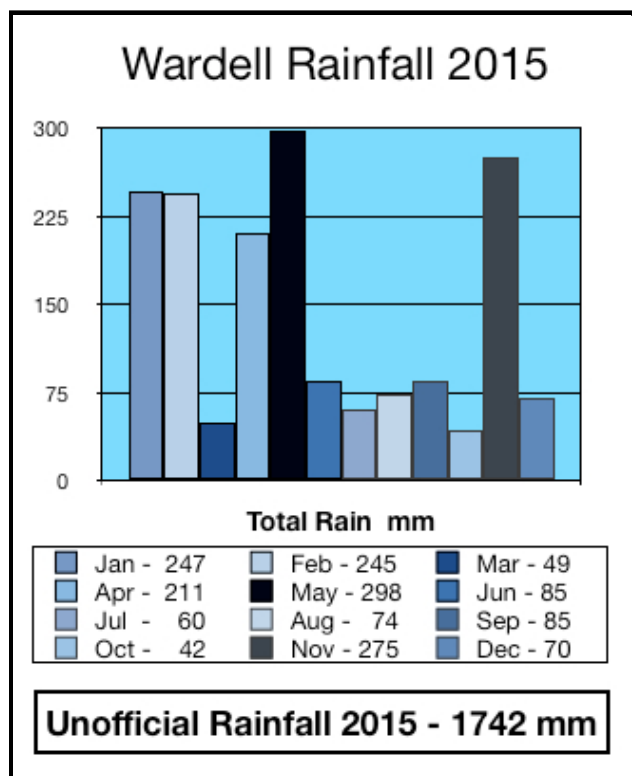
The weather over the Christmas break continued its current pattern of being on the wetter side of wet. Falls on Christmas Day were from 40 to 80 ml and on January 4th totals were up to 180 ml which meant further frustrations for our farmers in the middle of the harvesting and planting season.

Tree clearing and soft soil works on the Pacific Highway from Whytes Lane north have commenced and the traffic around this intersection has increased. With the opening of the Ewingsdale section of the Highway upgrade the next bottle neck on the highway will be Pimlico. Double lanes and 110 kph from the border to the Teven overpass - then back to one lane and 60kph. If it wasn't hard enough to turn north onto the highway before, it will be impossible in the future especially with slow moving agricultural machinery. Many Pimlico farmers have paddocks either side of the highway.

Jill Lock

A Good News Story

Betty Fernance was one of the original members of the Pimlico Ladies Charitable Organisation 55 years ago together with Olive Creighton and Betty Whitney. She had a happy surprise when her grandson, who has lived and worked in China for the last seven years, came back to Pimlico for Christmas with Betty.



Ian & Helen Lockton

speaking with Mike Rushby

Ian and Helen spent only four years at Wardell but they are held in very high regard by many - not only for their professionalism as teachers, managers and administrators but for their extraordinary contribution to the community.

Ian came to Wardell as the Public School principal but he saw the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall in a state of decay. He energised the community to save the hall.

Helen Lockton's Grandfather, her Mother's father, was a sign writer and artist who worked in Lismore. He was responsible for some of the artwork in the Catholic Cathedral although Helen's grandparents were not Catholics. His name was William Fletcher Watson from the English Fletcher Watson family of famous artists. Helen's father descended from an Irish convict settler of the early 1800s. His surname was Larrescy and he was a stable boy.

Ian's Grandfather selected at Bexhill in 1881 and the family stayed on that farm until Ian and Helen sold it and moved to Ballina a couple of years ago. It was a dairy farm. Ian's maternal Grandfather was a miner at Minmi down the coast. His name was Fairfull. The family moved up to the Northern Rivers and lived up the end of Fairfull Road Numulgi - which runs off Lockton Road Bexhill.

Helen said, "We met at a dance where he had an eye on me. We had Saturday night dances at the Lismore 'Riviera' and Ian offered to drive me home to Ballina. Then he somehow just kept appearing. At that time he was teaching out beyond Texas on the New South Wales side of the Queensland border. He just kept turning up and turning up and turning up and I finally gave in! He used to drive back from Texas to see me in Ballina. In those days the road to Tenterfield was a very winding dirt road and he would arrive in Ballina at nine o'clock at night and he would say, "Hello! Where's the radio? I've just got to see what the score is in the test cricket match in England." We were married in 1963 at the time when Ian had just been offered the school at Broken Head."

Ian said, "Helen and I both did our teacher training at Armidale Teachers' Training College although we were there at different times. My first appointment as a teacher was at Paisley Provisional School, which was about fifty kilometres west of Texas. It was a tobacco growing area with mainly Italian, Spanish



and one German worker. There were very few Australians. It was 1959 so some of the workers would have been prisoners of war who had been repatriated and had then migrated back to Australia. Most of them had arrived as single men to work in the tobacco industry but they would then send back for their sisters who would come out and marry their brother's mate. They had to get married on the wharf or they wouldn't be allowed off the boat!

"Helen and I were engaged by that stage and a vacancy came up at Broken Head. In those days the inspector would offer it to us and we were well treated by the department. We got good offers. Nowadays people need to apply for transfer but every position we took, we were offered without applying. After our wedding we lived in Byron Bay. I taught at Broken Head and Helen taught at Byron Bay although her first appointment had been at Tintenbar.

"After Broken Head we were offered Wardell. We were by then joined by our second baby. The Wardell residence was a good big residence. It is still there but is now part of the school building. When we arrived there were three young men camped on the verandah, a big black dog with an attitude problem roaming the grounds and an almost empty rainwater tank. We got the dog to solve the problem of the men, the owner of the dog solved the dog problem and it rained that night! Wardell was kind to us. We were busy because teachers were expected to take a leading role in the community and we, coming from small schools and having been educated in small schools, had a background of these communities. Our parents were involved in the P & C's and things like that. I liked it because I had no boss. I would see a supervisor for about an hour a year.

"We decided to lobby the government, the education department and local politicians to make a financial contribution. Lewes Ford had a bit of pull with the

local member via the Country Party. The target was an underground water supply and septic systems for school and residence.

“The local hall was at a low ebb of repair, community committees were in recess. The pending centenary provided the impetus to rally a willing group. Step one was to repair the hall. A working bee was held to level and re-stump the floor. I must say crawling in under the old hall was pretty tricky. Step two, start a social club to provide indoor bowls. That gave the hall ongoing income and facilitated social interaction.

“It had reached the stage where the council was going to take the hall over and I thought I couldn’t let that happen. So we stirred them up a bit. We went to a few meetings and facilitated the setting up of a new committee. We decided to pull the wall out between the supper room and the dance floor. We made our intentions public because nothing was private in Wardell anyway. We needed a source of income for the hall. So we put on indoor bowls to add to euchre once a week. When the centenary came in 1967, so did the weather. It teemed and teemed and teemed! The whole district flooded. The next day it was even heavier and we were all soaked to the skin. We had to get a tractor to pull all the cars out of the school playground because they were bogged. During the ceremony, just as the speeches started, the power went out so we didn’t have to make much of a speech.

“We then started the cane festival, which was a good money-spinner. The festival began at the recreation ground, which was not then a recreation ground until we cleared it. It was all overgrown scrub but we had working bees to clear it. I remember Lewes Ford on the tractor and Harry Law and there were workers like Billy Partridge, Steve Flatley, the Walsh and Felsch boys, Trevor Stoker and Norm Lane, amongst others. The cane festival was a great community effort.

Amongst things for which we had to raise money was a septic system for the hall. The toilet was hanging out over the river! There used to be pit toilets and the creek would come in and flood and undermine the pit. We knew during the centenary, we would have to use the hall. The hall was livened up with a cane festival ball, the women excelled themselves with the organisation and the kitchen scored improvements and septic toilets were installed.

“I was 27 when I went to Wardell and in my 8th year of teaching. Fr Ray Smith was the local Parish Priest, John Sawyer the policeman and 'Tud' Tuddenham the postmaster. Tud was succeeded by Jack Kearney and the school mail could now be found under the letter 'S', as Tud had always kept it under the letter 'H' in memory of schoolmaster Bill Heugh who had been there years before. Uncle Bill Thompson 'drove' the lift bridge, Blue Atherton was the butcher, Geoff and Bev Attewell ran the corner shop and the Duthies had the news agency. Rudgelys had the service station. Fishers had a store in East Wardell but it closed while we were there. Other local families were the Montis,

the Lovetts, Jack 'WGH' Clark the carrier, the Akins, the Cliffords, the Lumleys and the Scroops. The telephone operated through a manual exchange and the telephonists were more efficient than Twitter when you needed to find where someone was. Abe Weary was the night telephonist. As he lived across the road I got a report on the nighttime antics with the paper each morning. Odie O'Neill was the mechanic. Don't let Odie catch you unless you had all day to listen! All in all a great and diverse friendly mob.”

Helen said, “We didn’t have much spare time in Wardell. We had the school to run, we were very involved with community work, we both played basketball in Ballina, we were doing University study and we had a family to raise. We had family around and we made friends with the people of Wardell - like Harry and Narelle Law, the Partridges, the Stokers and many others we still regard as friends - although that was fifty years ago. We left Wardell in 1969 to go to Lismore and we lived on the family farm at Bexhill. Ian taught in Lismore and I was offered a position at Lismore High School where I stayed for a while until another baby was due. Then, three or four years later I was offered a position at Richmond River High School where Ian was teaching. We taught together there for many years. Ian stayed at Richmond River for the rest of his teaching career apart from time spent on a consultancy. I was offered a position at Casino High School where I went for four years, and then I came back to Kadina High School from where I retired.

“We have six children, four of whom were born after Wardell. We have one daughter, Clare, living in Ballina who teaches at Trinity Catholic College in Lismore. Another daughter, Catherine, is married and living in America. Our eldest daughter is Gina who the Wardell people might remember. She lives with her husband in Sydney. Andrew is married and lives in Melbourne. Mary lives in Sydney and William is married and lives in Far North Queensland. So we once did quite a bit of travelling to catch up with them all but we are getting a bit beyond that now.

“These days we are heavily involved with the St Vincent de Paul Society, which has been a big commitment of ours for over forty years. It takes up a lot of our time. Our big project at the moment is for a free Christmas lunch on Christmas Day for the Ballina community. For that and other projects we work very closely with a lot of other agencies – the Sallies, the Anglicans, the Presbyterians and the Men’s shelter. I also coordinate a community singing group that is in much demand.

“We have had a good time. We rode a wave!

Ian and Helen Lockton

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