

THE BLACKWALL BUGLE

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NBN - 2B or not 2B?

16 October 2015, Kevin Hogan MP the Federal Member for Page, sent out an advice, "The NBN will be rolled out across the Northern Rivers and Clarence Valley during 2017 and early 2018, with the whole of the country connected by the end of 2020." He said, "Across the Clarence Valley and Northern Rivers 48,730 households and businesses will benefit from Fixed Line broadband upgrades." He named places as far apart as Kyogle, Alstonville, Grafton, Casino, Lismore and Ballina. However Broadwater and Wardell were not on the list, so the 'Blackwall Bugle' wrote to Kevin Hogan's Chief of Staff, Peter Weeks to ask the reason why.

The same day he replied, "Many apologies – they were on a different list for some reason. Construction of fixed line NBN to Wardell and Broadwater will start in the first half of 2018."

Then on 1 March 2017, Paola Rickard, the Vice President of the Wardell & District Progress Association (WPA) wrote to Kevin Hogan, "Sorry to bug you with a complaint but unfortunately it looks like the residential village of Wardell (and I believe Broadwater too) will not receive the fixed line or Fibre to the Node (FTTN) technology any longer. In fact the latest NBN roll out maps shows that Wardell is only due to get the fixed wireless technology and this will not happen until Dec 2020. I am bringing your attention to email correspondence when your office announced that we were going to get the FTTN technology around mid 2018.

"I have contacted NBN about this," Paola continued, "and their reply was, "We apologise for the confusion you have experienced with the NBN rollout. An area may have been earmarked as part of our construction forecast, but a range of local factors, including existing infrastructure, construction capacity and network rollout complexity may subsequently lead us to change the

date for its delivery or the specific technology we plan to use."

NBN appears to be saying that Wardell village will miss out on receiving the promised and planned for Fibre to the Node (FTTN) technology."

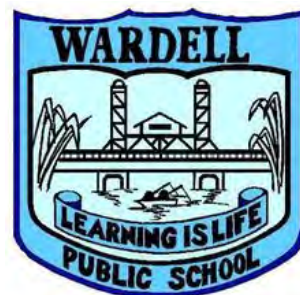
The Wardell Progress Association is obviously very concerned about this downgrading of technology for such a crucial bit of infrastructure. Paola wrote to Councillor Ben Smith, asking, "Could you please assist us in lobbying NBN to reverse this decision?"

Councillor Ben Smith took the matter up with NBN and was informed by NBN Co that the intention is to speed deployment of the fixed wireless technology at Wardell. They admitted that the NBN website was wrong and the information was incorrect on the deployment schedule. That was obviously a communication failure on their part. The NBN website has since been updated to show that Wardell will receive the fixed wireless technology by October 2017. Paola reported that on ABC Local Radio, NBN Co said that the roll out for Wardell will occur in July 2017.

Paola added, "WPA is nevertheless concerned about the fact that FTTN technology will no longer be available for Wardell. Wardell is identified in Council's strategic planning as a growth area. Having reliable fibre optic connectivity is crucial in assisting this development. Many residents depend on fast and reliable internet to run local business (including home base ones). The wireless system will not provide such capability, many of the rural WPA members are finding out that the wireless NBN system is plagued by problems and are most disappointed."

Major business operations in this area are finding the new fixed wireless technology to be inferior to the ADSL that we have been accustomed to!

WARDELL PUBLIC SCHOOL SESQUICENTENARY



This year marks the Sesquicentenary Celebrations for Wardell Public School - it has been open for 150 years. The official celebrations for this wonderful occasion will be held at the Wardell Public School this year on Saturday 21 October when we also hold our fete. The night before, on Friday 20 October, we will hold a formal dinner.

We are looking to locate and talk to all past students, families, teachers and locals who have

photos, memorabilia and stories to tell about the school that can be used in a book to be published to coincide with our celebrations this October. If you have any information that may prove useful to us, or you are interested in attending the celebrations-

Email: bmooney@westnet.com.au

Telephone: 0428 881 798 (Jodi)



The Knit n' Knat Group meet every Thursday morning in the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall to knit and crochet blankets and clothing for the needy. Seated here are Sue Steel, Rhonda Barnes, Ivy Carter, Anne Lynette Gwynne and Sue Cetchner-Simmonds. Sue Steele, on behalf of the group, welcomed Ivy, now aged 94, back from hospital with a bouquet of flowers.



On ANZAC Day we meet to remember and honour those who went to war on our behalf. But when the ceremony is over, we can renew old friendships. Here Phill Read, ex RAAF and now of Meerschaum Vale, meets up with State Registered Nurse and Wardell volunteer firefighter, Di Farrell.

The Cost of Speeding

Between 2013 and 2015 there were 112 crashes in Ballina Shire where speed was a contributing factor. Statistics show that there are more crashes on country roads than on metropolitan roads.

Speeding does not just mean driving above the posted speed limit, it also means driving too fast for the prevailing road and weather conditions and driving too fast around bends,” said Ms Helen Carpenter, Road Safety Officer, Ballina Shire Council and Roads and Maritime Service.

John and Wendy Stead are leaving Pimlico and heading North to another phase in their lives. During their time here they have dedicated much of their energy to the betterment of our community. They have lobbied Ballina Shire Council to improve the roads in the Pimlico area. They have been responsible for the redecoration of the Wardell & District War Memorial Hall and the construction of new toilets including a disabled facility. They were also instrumental in organising and designing the Wardell War Memorial. We wish them happiness and success in the future. They will be remembered here!

Cyclone Debbie

The aftermath of Cyclone Debbie passed this way on 31 March. While the Blackwall area remained drenched but relatively unscathed, areas upstream like Woodburn, Coraki, Lismore, Casino and Kyogle received devastating floods and destructive winds.

John Stead and his wife Wendy were quietly sitting on the western deck of their house at Pimlico watching the flotilla of debris floating down the Richmond River when a big black image arose from the river edge, as though emerging out of the Riverbank Road. In a letter to friends, John wrote:

"Then we realised it was a cow that sought a safe haven to get out of the passing torrent. It scrambled on to the road looking around its landing spot, ahhh! green grass to eat after a long swim from who knows where. After some help from our friendly neighbour Ron, we were able to herd our visitor off the road and into the north paddock to avoid chaos on the road.

"To add to the story, as she emerged out of the river, I rang ABC North Coast who were running a special morning flood report asking for people to call in with news of the aftermath of the night. They were amazed how the cow had survived.

"Maybe tomorrow we might have a bull scramble up the bank, then we could start cattle farming! Or maybe she will be claimed by a thankful farmer. We have named her Debbie after the storm that delivered her!"

John

The cow was ear tagged and, a few days later, a stock agent reported to John that the pregnant Angus cow came from Gundurimba on the Wilsons River, just south of Lismore. Holy cow! She must have been carried by the flood-water and debris over seventy kilometres and then still had the strength to pull herself out of the powerful current and clamber ashore. John and Debbie featured on the ABC Country Hour. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-05/cow-survives-70km-swim-nsw-floodwater/8417480#>



**From The Sydney Morning Herald
2 April 2017**

Also. "Thinking back a few years, living in Queensland, I remember cyclone Doris. I was ready for it but my wife was not. When the wind reached a screaming pitch with the trees snapping and threshing, the horizontal streaming rain, flying roofing iron and destroyed fences as well as the unnerving sound-levels, my wife was rooted to the spot. She stared and stared through the glass of the window. Immovable, with her nose pressed to the window pane, the stark fear in her eyes will stay with me for ever. Fortunately, as the eye of the storm arrived and the winds temporarily lessened, I was able to open the door and let her in." Bill Leigh, West Pennant Hills.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/column-8/column-8-20170402-gvbqj0.html>



Wardell Brigade NSW Rural Fire Service



The Wardell Brigade of the Rural Fire Service has had a long hot summer fighting large difficult fires burning above and below ground in the peat forests of South Ballina and Lennox Head. There have been local grass fires too and several serious motor vehicle accidents. Then along came Cyclone Debbie!

Volunteer firefighters have the skills and teamwork to help their community no matter what the threat and are considered to be a multi-task agency. So when the call went out, the “troops” stepped forward. Foremost among the volunteers were Senior Deputy Captain Ron Rosolen, Deputy Captain Jo Heber, President Rex Farrell, Michael Heugh, Mitch Monti, Di Farrell and Bonni Heber Wood. Captain Ray Collyer was away at the other end of Australia but would be happy to know that the Brigade could operate without him.

Following Cyclone Debbie, fire crews spent the first day patrolling Ballina to assure residents that the town would not flood but offering advice and support where needed. The next day they were up in Murwillumbah and Condong where there were scenes of total devastation. Ground floor granny flats had been totally underwater, Mullumbimby, in the Brunswick River catchment had received a staggering 925 mm in 24 hours from 3am on March 30.

The Wardell Brigade joined other RFS fire crews and trucks on the road into town which was covered in thick black mud. They hosed out houses and a school which had been flooded with contaminated mud. The school lost everything and would be shut until reassessed by the education department.

There was not only the flood damage but the mud was highly toxic and included chemicals picked up from the cane farms. There was thick black sticky mud everywhere and ‘mountains’ of abandoned household goods. But the spirit of the people was fantastic! It was neighbour helping neighbour. The fires had people bringing them coffee and sausage sandwiches when they themselves were in a state of disarray. The volunteers used their skills to help the community and their presence was warmly rewarded.

Sometimes all that was needed was a sympathetic shoulder to lean on like the 84 year-old woman who had lived there all her life and never asked for help. But her brother died of cancer the week before the flood and she needed to talk about it. At South Murwillumbah Public School, the Wardell volunteers hosed out the mud, assisted by a National Parks team with a bob-cat. The next day they cleaned up the Tumbulgum Tennis Courts and then the main street — anything to get the community back on its feet.



Photo Jo Heber

The Long Sweep

Wardell in Flood

The flooding rain of 30 March and 1 April caused very serious damage to towns and villages upstream, with many people losing their homes and businesses. Farm fences, crops and livestock were lost. Yet downstream we could only marvel at the force of the fast-flowing river and wonder what could happen here — because we had no data. Old timers would say, “In seventy-four there was a foot of water over the Northern end of Richmond Street but it didn’t enter the houses, but in fifty-four, patrons in the Royal Hotel stood knee deep at the old bar whilst downing their beers!”

But we had no official data although somewhere, someone would have recorded rainfall, river flow, river height and tides, currents and seas at the river mouth. Russell Krampe went and got a felt pen and placed his own record of the high-point of the river on the Wardell jetty. So that is one factor to work with.

The Wardell Progress Association meeting was informed by Pat Carney that he was following up the matter with John Truman the Ballina Shire Council Group Manager Civil Services.

As things appear at the moment, there is no way of providing Wardell residents with accurate data on which they can assess the threat to their safety and their property.

Keep an eye on Russell’s mark!



Those of you that travel the Old Bagotville Road will know that it has been fenced off to protect the Koalas that might cross, from being injured by the trucks carrying material to build the new highway. But no one appears to have told the resident

wallabies. They get into the corridor apparently from the open ends and panic in the face of oncoming traffic.

So when driving this road, take it easy to avoid scaring wallabies into smashing against the fences.

Fay Daley

Speaking with Mike Rushby

Betty is my first name because my Dad liked the name but then he and everyone else called me Fay. I was born in Lismore in 1933. My parents had a dairy farm at Terania Creek. In those days, all Terania Creek was dairy farming. I went back there a couple of years ago and could not even find the farm I was reared on. Everything has changed. I have three sisters and I am the second oldest. The farm was hard work for Mum and Dad. It was very hilly country and we had a really good lifestyle and we loved it out there. We were most upset when Dad decided to sell the farm.

I went to school at Terania Creek. We could see the school from our place but it was quite a long walk because we had to walk down one hill, cross a creek and walk up another big hill. If the creek got flooded, we couldn't cross. It was a one-teacher school but is no longer there having burnt down years ago. We used to play tennis there too for recreation. I left school when I was fourteen because it was too far to travel to another school.

I remember a cyclone going through when I was aged twelve. We thought that the roof of the house was going and we all moved into the dairy which we thought was the safest place because it was all concrete. We moved the cattle out to look after themselves but we were high above the creek and they were in no danger from floodwater. I loved the country life; I still love the country life!

I left Terania Creek School at fourteen and did a dressmaking course for three years. My sister and I used to come into town on the cream truck until she was old enough to get a licence. She would then drive the truck in. When we moved to Lismore, I worked at the Base Hospital as a domestic for three years. I met Don Foster my first husband there and we got married and had all my kids. We were together for twenty-five years and then parted. My ten kids are all Fosters.

We lived in Uralba Street where the square is now and where the flood came up. That was the 56 flood when Steven was just a baby. We knew the flood was coming and we had every thing up, but nine inches came into the house and the mess took a lot of cleaning up. The copper and the washtubs were under the house and we took truckloads and truckloads of mud out of the back yard.



I went back to work then at the hospital but when I had my second child, I left work to rear the kids. I was still at the hospital when the Queen came out. The Duke and the Queen were then quite young and we were the first uniformed people to see the Queen. It was very wet and raining that day and the flood came up afterwards. Patients were wheeled out in their beds into the rain to see the Queen. It was quite exciting!

My eight eldest children were born in Lismore; the two youngest in Ballina when we lived at Broadwater and my husband worked at the mill. Don then lost his job at the mill but he was a plumber and went back to work in Ballina. We moved out to Tintenbar then back to Ballina. By then the contractor I worked for at the RSL had lost the contract so I had to find something else to do. I took in washing from the Ex-Servicemen's Home for a fair while. I would take my little car and collect the washing then process it and deliver it. It was hard work but I had to do something as I had a lot of kids to feed. At that time my first husband wasn't working so it was up to me.

Then, when Don and I parted, I came here to Wardell in 1977 with eight of my kids. By then two of my children had left home. We lived first in Axford House in Sinclair Street opposite St Patrick's church. David and I met when we were both working at the RSL Club.

David was very much involved with Junior Rugby League at the Wardell Sports and Recreation Club and one day he said, "Sue Felsch needs a hand with the canteen would you go and give her a hand?" So I did. Then the Sports Club started to clear the grounds so I would make scones for morning tea for the men. They were mostly farmers who came in with their farm machines to clear the grounds. The Councilmen were there too so I was kept busy making scones. There was no clubhouse then so I made the scones at home. We had a fridge over there for the drinks and a pie-heater to keep the pies hot and I brought in the scones. The three stalwarts of the sports club were David who was involved from the start, the schoolteacher Ian Lever, and Jim Taylor the Policeman. Then all the cane farmers got involved and it was a really good community effort — it was wonderful!

Back when the grounds were being cleared for the sports club the girls in town had formed a soft-ball team and those same girls cooked the barbecue for the workmen. Kenny Keys supplied the meat for the barbecue. He had the caravan park but he also was a butcher. So when the club opened, I just moved into the kitchen to help out and I was there for years. The second grade football started on Sunday afternoons and a few ladies helped me with that – Nana Perry was very good. She would always help me and she was good on the counter.

Then when the kitchen opened, I was in charge of the kitchen. I get sort of thrown into these jobs. They said, "Here you are, you do this!" I enjoyed that.

The club wasn't open when we got married. David and I married in 1989 and I think the club opened a year later. I worked in the kitchen for years. Some of the girls as they grew up came and helped me. There were other ladies before that. Joan Hopson was very good. We opened fortnightly at first because we didn't have a full licence, and we would get a hundred people there. We would put on smorgasbords and they would come down from Lismore and everywhere. I would take six hundred dollars in the kitchen with no problem and that was good in those days because the meals weren't very dear. Then we got the licence and we open weekly.

There were a lot of men working there apart from David. There was Don Hodson, Ray Walsh, Greg Kingdom and many others — particularly cane farmers — many of whom I didn't know because I was then relatively new to Wardell. Greg and my daughter Yvonne, were married and were caretakers there for a while. I liked working with Greg. He was bar manager and I was in the kitchen and we helped one another. We had a really good working partnership. The club was very popular because we did put on good meals and smorgasbords and everyone had a good feed! We had bands there And I remember fun nights like a murder mystery night. We had some good nights at the club.

I was always an Anglican and as a young thing I always went to church. My first husband wasn't Anglican and most of our kids were baptised in the

Methodist Church. I decided when I moved to Wardell that I would go to Alstonville because I had a daughter up there and I thought that if I went to church in Alstonville she would come with me. I went there for a few years and then I decided to come down here one day and it was so friendly! It was one of the best things I ever did. I just love it! I really do! I get a lot out of this church. I have the faith and the church is so friendly — it's like a family. Anyway the church made me Centre Warden for quite a few years. Now I'm a Councillor. It is just something that I really love doing. They have started a kids church up here which is run by Les McDougal and Jeanie Spears. They took about three years to get it going because of all the red tape. They do a wonderful job. I enjoy being out there and seeing the little kids run around and I watch them doing their lessons which they do much better than I could! I do get a lot out of the church. I do! We are just like a family.

We also have our market day once a month for the church for which I do a lot of cooking. And of course we have our Op Shop where I go every Monday. It is very enjoyable working at the Op Shop although I am usually in the back room doing the ironing and washing and goodness knows what! The op shop is in Woodburn. We opened it at first here in Wardell in the shopping complex but when the church closed at Woodburn we decided to move our op shop down there because in Wardell we were only just making enough to get by after we paid our rent. But in Woodburn we owned the building and had no rent to pay. We support the Anglican Churches at Wardell, Evans Head and Coraki. We used to have six churches in the Parish but we had to close Woodburn, Meerschaum Vale and Broadwater and we hope we don't have to close any more!

We had no minister for quite a few years. But we now have a Deacon. Cathy is working with us now. Hopefully next year she will be ordained. She is a lovely lady and she is very good with kids and with old people like me. She lives at the Rectory in Evans Head and works three days with us and three days in Ballina.

I enjoy living in Wardell because I like country life and I've got lots and lots of friends and a lot of my family around me. My family means the world to me. I've got twenty-eight grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren and it is just lovely because they come and visit. Then mixing with the church people – I just like the community. I remember my Dad when he was alive once asking me, "Why would you want to go to Wardell to retire?" I said, "Dad, I love it!" When my Mum died he came down and stayed for a while and said, "Yes, I can see why!" **Fay**

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