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Bill and Ivy Chadwick

by Bill Lavarack

This is the third in a series of Occasional Papers covering the Caton-Townsend-Bell-Chadwick families of Buderim. This paper covers the lives of William Chadwick and his wife Ivy.

William (Bill) Charles Chadwick (8/5/1898 - 13/7/1962) was born in Brisbane, the son of William Burdett Chadwick and Charlotte Maria Frances Chadwick (née Pringle). Ivy Townsend Bell (8/07/1900 - 2/10/1988) as we have seen in the previous Occasional Paper, was born in Brisbane but her mother Alice Minnie Bell, died soon after her birth and her father William Fawcett Bell brought her as a baby to Buderim by train and horseback where she lived with her Grandmother Harriet Townsend and the Townsend family.

Bill Chadwick's parents, lived in Clayfield. He joined his father's firm, Robert Reid & Co and worked as a Clerk.

As a teenager he often visited Buderim and stayed with the Wallace Burnett

family. It was at this time that he developed a strong liking for the small farming community and it was there that he met Ivy Bell, who he would later marry. He played Rugby Union for the Buderim team in about 1917.



Buderim rugby union team about 1917. Bill Chadwick middle row third from left, possibly Charlie Chilly centre front. (Photo. Ken Chadwick collection)

Bill Chadwick offered himself for enlistment in the First World War on 6 December 1917. He was 19 years old.¹ William was described as being 19 years old, single, a farmer, 5 feet 11¼ inches tall, 32–36 inch chest, grey eyes, brown hair, and of the Methodist faith. He gave his address as Buderim Mountain, via Palmwoods, Queensland.² Bill's war experience was brief. He proceeded overseas to France via Dover on 4 October 1918. The War ended on 11 November 1918. His regiment was held over in England in connection with the disposal of Army property and horses. On 12 February 1919 he proceeded to Calais, northern France with horses, returning 19 February. He moved out for return to Australia with quota number 52 on 5 May. He embarked from Southampton, England on 21 May 1919 and returned to Australia per *City of Exeter* on 15 July 1919. He was discharged from the AIF on 12 September 1919.

For some time after returning he farmed at Stanthorpe as a result of the Returned Soldiers Farming Scheme, but he eventually returned to his former job with Robert Reid. He then lived on Buderim working as a farm labourer for Wallace Burnett. He is pictured in a photo of a Buderim Rugby Union side in about 1917 (Ken Chadwick, (pers. comm.)). He married Ivy Townsend Bell in the Nambour Methodist Church on 23 February 1924.

Now let us look at Ivy Chadwick. After the difficult start in life she flourished, living with her adoptive family the Townsends. She was a popular figure on Buderim in her teenage years and was the 'Pineapple Queen' of the Buderim Show in 1923. In the following years she was a regular part of Buderim life playing the piano or church organ at weddings, dances and funerals.



Miss Ivy Bell the 'Pineapple Queen' with her 'Maids of Honour' Ellen Crack and Winnie Dyble. Buderim Show, 1923. Photo BHS.

Concerning her training as a musician, her son Ken wrote:

*Evidently Mum showed early signs of having musical ability and possibly the piano she played could have been purchased especially for her. She made rapid progress and I think she received her Diploma, ATCL (Associate Trinity College London) at the age of 16. She took further studies in organ playing and was taught by Percy Briers the church organist at Albert Street Methodist Church Brisbane, on the large pipe organ. She travelled to Brisbane each week using the Buderim tram, to join the train to Brisbane from Palmwoods. She started teaching piano at Buderim soon after and became a wonderful teacher. She had the personality to make a pupil feel relaxed, yet motivated and enjoying the experience. Her emphasis was on enjoying music, not just a study of the piano to receive examination results. She always had dozens of pupils and of course many did do remarkably well in the AMEB examinations, some going on to be professionals. She would give concerts with her pupils performing and stressed that the main aim of music was to entertain others. She also formed an orchestra in Buderim using local talent.*³

¹ The *Brisbane Courier*, 7 December, 1917, RECRUITS IN BRISBANE(Buderim).

² Cronin, Helene, 2015, *Buderim's Great War Effort 1914 – 1918*, 355 pages, published by Helene Cronin, Buderim.

³ Ken Chadwick, 2017, *From Buderim Farmer to Band Leader*, printed by Design & Print, Buderim, ed. Bill Lavarack, page 14.

After their wedding Bill and Ivy lived ten years in Corinda, Brisbane where they had two children Margaret Fawcett Chadwick (1925 - 1992) and Kenneth Burdett Chadwick b.1928. In 1934 the family moved to Mooloolaba and then to Buderim in 1936. The tale of these moves follows.

While living in Brisbane the thought of returning to the North Coast and Buderim remained with them and in 1934 they made the move. Their idea as told by Ken Chadwick was:

... to build a shop/cafe with one extra flat for rent on an upper story. Obviously Dad would have put his life savings into this, along with a bank loan. It became a reality in 1934. The site was on the corner of the Esplanade and Brisbane Road. Mooloolaba was a very small place in those days and had two general stores, a cafe and a butcher's shop. Of course at Christmas and Easter it became a busy place with holiday makers, mostly living in tents on the foreshore.¹



However the Great Depression hit their business as it did many others, and they were forced to sell. The family moved to Buderim, living with Ivy's father, Bill Bell who owned two farms. They worked Bill Bell's farm 'Hylton' on King Street near Wirreanda.

'Hylton' farm near Wirreanda.
Photo: Ken Chadwick collection



During the Second World War Bill Chadwick, then aged in his forties, joined the Buderim Volunteer Defence Corps in 1941.

Buderim Volunteer Defence Corps.
About 1941.
Photo Ken Chadwick collection.

He undertook special training and was given the rank of captain in charge of D Company of 120 men. It is clear from this that Bill Chadwick was seen as a community leader.

¹ Ibid, Ken Chadwick 2017, page 15.

After the War there was a move from the Buderim community to provide a memorial for the returning soldiers and for those killed in action. Wanting something more useful than a statue in Main Street, a committee of Buderim residents proposed a Community Centre that provided facilities for the returning soldiers and for the rest of the community. As a result an organisation named the Buderim Community Centre was formed (this was later renamed as the Buderim War Memorial Community Centre). Bill Chadwick was appointed as President and Max Lindsay as Secretary. Other prominent people involved included local doctor Dr Hugh Shaw, local schoolmaster George Ott, George Burnett, Hubert Foote and Councillor H.J. Murphy.¹ The first projects included a new billiards room, tennis courts and a redevelopment of the lower part of the School grounds into an oval suitable for cricket and other sports. The legacy of this is the present Buderim War Memorial Community Association which is still active almost 80 years later. Bill Chadwick's son Ken was to follow his father as President 55 years later.

During and after the War agriculture on Buderim boomed and Bill Chadwick purchased a farm which stretched from Bill Bell's 'Rocklea' to where Woolworths is now. He grew ginger which was the most popular crop on Buderim. In June 1941 the Australian Ginger Grower's Council was formed with Bill Chadwick as the Queensland representative. After his retirement from the Ginger industry in 1952, he continued with banana farming, but declining health and a series of bad cyclones in 1954 and 1956 which seriously damaged the plantations on Buderim, forced his retirement from farming.

He took an active part in the Billiard Club where he was treasurer. He took up lawn bowls, a game he enjoyed. He became involved with the Methodist Church where he did some lay preaching. To coincide with the Centenary Celebrations of 1962, he wrote a brief history of Buderim entitled 'History of Buderim 1862 -1962'.

On her return to Buderim, Ivy was instrumental in forming the local church choir and, during the War, she organised concerts for Red Cross and the Australian Comfort Fund for the troops.

Over the years Ivy used her musical talents as church organist and accompanist at social functions throughout the area. She played at weekly dances held in aid of various community organisations. She played for many Buderim Amateur Theatrical Society productions. She was a life member of the Buderim Library and president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Community Centre. For several decades she played at ANZAC Day services.²

As a result of his activities on Buderim, Bill was a highly respected member of the community. Unfortunately he did not live to join the Buderim centenary celebrations in 1962 as he died on 13 July that year, and was buried in Buderim Lawn Cemetery.

After Bill's death in 1962, Ivy lived in Melbourne for a few years, still involved with teaching music, but she missed Buderim and returned to live near her daughter. She died on 2 October 1988 and was buried in the Buderim Lawn Cemetery.



Bill and Ivy Chadwick about 1950.
Photo: Ken Chadwick collection.

¹ *Courier Mail*, 12 October, 1946, page 2.

² Newspaper clipping from unknown source, presumably 1988, held by Bill Lavarack

Acknowledgements

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References

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Bill Chadwick the soldier in 1918



Bill Chadwick the farmer ca. 1945

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Footnote Ken Chadwick OAM (b. 1928), the son of Bill and Ivy has had a distinguished career, particularly in music. He was brought up at Mooloolaba and Buderim. With no formal training in music, he was accepted into the RAAF Central Band in Melbourne in which he played from 1952 to 1964. After his discharge from the RAAF, Ken played with various dance bands and was a music teacher at two Melbourne high schools and played in the Melbourne Police Band. With his wife Val and three sons he returned to Queensland's Sunshine Coast and more work in bands. In 1996 he was appointed as Director of Music with the newly re-named Sunshine Coast Concert Band, a position he held until he was in his early 90s. In 1999 Ken was elected as President of the Buderim War Memorial Community Association and served in that position until 2001. In 2008 Ken was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his lifetime of work in music and in community service.

