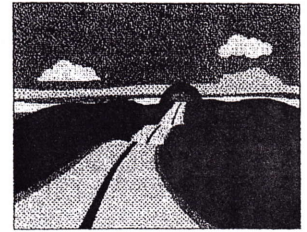


AROUND THE RIDGES

and a bit beyond



Issue 6 December, 2003

A community and school newsletter.

Christmas time is now so close. The Newsletter Committee is pleased to report that the first 6 months of "Around the Ridges and a bit beyond" have been kindly and generously supported by the community, community groups and businesses.

This combined contribution has enabled us to publish the newsletter, contribute some much needed reading books to the class rooms and to provide the school with a copy of the soon to be published book on Morinish history by Dennis Leah.

I would like to especially thank our typists Carol Ellrot, Katie Reeve, Jasmine Fulton and our present typist Jenny Prince, who has taken to the task with a passion!

Special thanks go to our business sponsors who have shown great faith and sponsorship of our community and school newsletter..... The Engine Centre Rockhampton, Jenkinson Contractors, Warwick Hale Saddlery, Keleher Engineering, Possum Power and Australian Country Living.

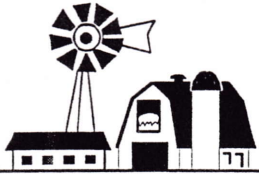
I would like to thank our 'regular' committee, Pat, Jenny, Margaret, Kay, Linda, Ena and Julie, whose enthusiasm and willingness to assist when and where needed, has sealed the success of the newsletter. I say 'regular' because the committee is open to all and indeed, for us to continue, people need to come forward from time to time to help us out – just a little help goes along way. Thank-you to, to Mr. Mick Byrne and the P&C for their support.

We look forward to contributions from the community in 2004 and we invite businesses or families to sponsor our newsletter for a month. Remember the newsletter is supported by the Community Business Directory, so please approach businesses for their advertising. Local people are actively looking to support our advertisers.

We wish everyone a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas break.

Jenny Reeve

This Newsletter is sponsored by Australian Country Living



AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY LIVING

SHOP 27 ROCKHAMPTON SHOPPING FAIR – 49 280088

SHOP 20B CITY CENTRE PLAZA ROCKHAMPTON – 49 22 6288

Australian Country Living is a family business that has been owned and operated by Carol & Alex Reid from Nicholson Road, Alton Downs since 1998. The second shop was opened in the City Centre Plaza in 1999.

Since then, the Australian Country Living has now become a chain with shops owned and operated by franchisee's throughout Queensland and thus giving the customers the benefit from the buying power the Franchising has created.

At Australian Country Living you will find one of the largest selections of gift and home wares in Queensland and we are proud of our friendly service

As well as free gift wrapping we have Lay-by and gift vouchers.

Drop in for a browse and see our fabulous range.

You can find us at Shop 27, Rockhampton Shopping Fair, Shop 20B City Centre Plaza and for this Christmas opposite Toyworld in the Northside Plaza.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas with family and friends and all the best for 2004.



Continuing Letter from Susan Porter. – From Alton Downs to the Kimberleys.

It was at Nardoo we met ex-drover Kel Stacey, who advised us to take the Barkley Stock Route across the Downs. “Plenty of grass and water for the horses – and no crocodiles.”

Because of rough dry stretches to the west we had to head south again past Riversleigh, Thornton and Undilla to 20km north of Camooweal where we cut across through Rocklands to cross the border into NT at Dariel’s Gate. We called in at Gallipoli (outstation of Alexandria) and took more than a week to traverse Alexandria.

We followed the Rankin Stock Route from Alexandria Homestead through Connell’s Lagoon and Brunette Downs before following the Barkley Stockroute from Anthony Lagoon, through Eva Downs, Helen Springs and onto Newcastle Waters to Elliott. We then spent four days camped at the back of the famous Junction Hotel in the historic Newcastle Waters township. The five horses enjoyed a well-earned rest across the road, where not many years ago up to fifteen droving plants would be parked up for the wet season. Like them we used our time at Newcastle Waters making repairs to equipment, in our case replacing springs that broke coming into Elliott.

We had hoped to be able to follow the infamous Murrnaji Track to Top Springs. But that is not feasible because the track itself no longer exists and the watering points have not been maintained. We decided our best option was to head directly west where the Murrnaji meets the Tanami Desert, relying on a water drop that Newcastle Waters people helped us to organise to get us across the 80km dry stretch. After we crossed the new railway line it was 70km in a straight line. Fairly heavy sand in some places but the horses handled it well. We were back into civilisation again when we reached Dungowan and rejoined the stock route at Yellow Waterhole.

Sixty kilometres later along the Buchanan Highway we arrived at Top Springs, and when Tony and Terry offered Kelly a couple of days work he decided to accept, mainly because the horses were getting a little leg weary and needed a rest. A couple of days turned into fourteen, and we enjoyed them immensely.

It was time to move on if we wanted to finish our journey before the heat really set in. We spent a night at historic Victoria River Downs, then arrived two days later at Kidman Springs. Kelly as offered work for a week (which turned into a month to help with second round mustering – our harness horses adapted remarkably well to stock work) Manager Don Cherry then offered Kelly a job over the Summer but gave us time to finish our journey before returning for the wet season.

We covered the 360 km from Kidman to Kununurra in just 12 days, arriving just as the 42 degree heat set in. We are now back at Kidman Springs, where our horses have a great paddock to relax in for the Summer and we can see them every day (our first priority in finding somewhere to stay). Kelly will make a few modifications to the wagon before we hit the road again early next year.

Overall, we’re still having a great time, we’ve seen some facets of this wonderful country of ours that many people never get the opportunity to experience, and we’ve met some great people along the way.

Principal's Report

Ridgelands State School

18 Nov 03

The 6/7 camp on North Keppel was a great success and everyone had a great time. My thanks to the teachers, students and Mr Weir for their efforts and enthusiasm. My congratulations also to the students for being great ambassadors for the school and community. The North Keppel Island staff were very impressed with their attitudes and behaviour, as was I.

Several people including myself were interviewed in Maryborough recently for the Ridgelands School Principal position commencing in 2004. We should know the results on or about the 4th December.

Mr Ian Johnson and Councillor Sid Hoare as part of the Water Wise Education Program visited the school. Students learnt ways of minimising water wastage in the home and at school. It was very interesting session.

On 4th December the Executive Director of Schools, Ms Lynn Foley will visit the school to conduct the school review.

Our school concert details should be out soon. This is on Wednesday 10th December.

Thursday 11th December at 9.00am will be our Ridgelands Redback Awards parade. All sports awards will be presented at this parade also.

Friday 12th December is Break –up day.

We have recently compiled all our result from the University of NSW tests that students participated in during the year. Congratulations again to these students who achieved the following great results:

Australasian Schools Science Competition

Yr 4

Francis Witt – Distinction

Madison Rosenberg – Credit

Yr 5

Travis Duff – Distinction

Yr 6

Jack ward - Distinction

Jacqueline Fossett – Credit

Yr 7

Kelsie West – Credit

Australasian Schools Mathematics Assessment:

Yr 4

William Brown – Credit

Brendan Hall – Credit

Yr 5

Travis Duff – Distinction

Cameron Milner – Distinction

Yr 6

Jacqueline Fossett – Distinction

Jack ward – Credit

Yr 7

Jason Boon – Credit

Australasian Schools Computer Skills Competition

Yr 5

Naomi Pierce – Distinction

Travis Duff – Credit

Casey Hopkins – Credit

Andrew Hunt – Credit

Yr 6

Jack ward – Credit

Yr 7

Kelsie West - Credit

Australasian Schools English Competition

Yr 6

Jacque Fossett – Distinction

Jack Ward – Credit

We are still keen to take enrolments for 2004, so please ring or call in to the school between 8:30am and 4:00pm weekdays.

Regards

Mick Byrne

Pre-School Grade One News.

Last Friday, the children were given advice on how to save water by the visiting Waterwise team.

Grade One went on to write down some of the hints they had learnt.

- I brush my teeth and turn the tap off. When I go for a shower I put a bucket in the shower to save some of the water for the plants.

Tessa Harney.

- I have a quick shower every day. I brush my teeth every day and night and don't leave the tap on.

Kiah Barney.

- I water the garden with my Mum and Dad.

Lauren Thompson.

- I water the garden with my Mum and Dad . You fill up the bucket . I wash the car with water in a bucket.

Cassidy- Anne O'Halloran.

- I water the garden with a bucket and sometimes with Mum and Dad.

I use a bucket to wash the car.

Sarah Barlow.

- I water the garden with a bucket of water with my Mum and Dad. I put more water on the garden.

Connor Christensen.

- I drink a cup of water and I drink it all. If I didn't drink it all I would tip it on the garden.

Geoffrey Morrison.



Year 2/3 Classroom News

I have recently started teaching the class some simple everyday signing words and sentences. So far we have learnt 'Good morning' and 'Good afternoon', 'Mrs R', 'My name is...' (finger spelling the letters of their name).

This Friday we will be going on our class excursion to Yeppoon. We will be leaving at 9am and returning in time for the buses at 3pm.

A more detailed note will go home with the students regarding transport and exact beach location.

While we are at the beach, we will be building sandcastles, collecting shells, swimming in the ocean and having a picnic lunch and sausage sizzle.

We are all looking forward to this special treat.

If you haven't responded to the note sent home last Friday, please send it tomorrow with money. (\$4 per student/parent)

Class Teacher 'Tricia Ruddick

YEAR 3 / 4 CAPERS

The year 3/4's have been very busy writing and publishing their electronic pirate storybooks.

The students were asked to write an exciting pirate adventure. They were then required to plan their electronic book including a variety of computer techniques such as scanning a picture out of a book as well as their own drawings, incorporating digital photos and using the drawing features on the computer. Most students are now up to publishing their stories on a Powerpoint presentation.

All students are doing an exceptional job on their storybooks. They are all looking forward to presenting their stories to parents and other students soon.

Camp News

One of the students' favourite activities was the night walk to Maize Bay. Students were required to hold onto a rope with two or three of their friends and follow the path using just the dim light of the rising moon. Along the way students heard the snort of a wild pig! The screams of the students could be heard across the island. Another student, who will remain anonymous, defended herself and her friends by hitting the 'wild pig' with the rope. A memorable evening, with all the students' screams turning to laughter after they found out the true identity of the wild pig was actually Miss Finnigan.

Students also enjoyed snorkelling, orienteering, ropes course, learning about alternative energy, using steam to create electricity and swimming. The camp was enhanced by the students' excellent behaviour and willingness to participate and try new things.

Grade Five News

Year fives and Miss Whiting extend a big thank you to Mrs Paddison who taught them last week. Students learnt about spiders and how they play an important part in the web of life. Students also enjoyed their rewards of chocolates and jellybeans – a luxury they do not normally receive!

Playground News

A noteworthy event on the playground today was when Miss Whiting bowled Kym Barney out. (The glory was short-lived however, because she was then promptly caught out on her first bat).

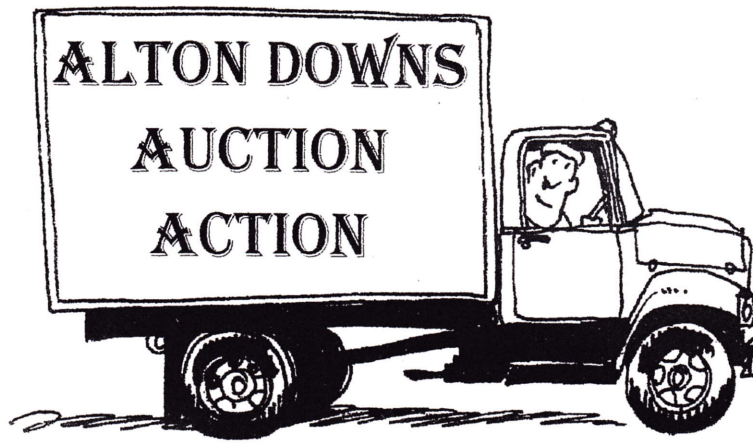
CLASSROOM NEWS

Grade 6/7 News

I must commend all students who attended NKIEEC last week on their co-operative and considerate behaviour. A most enjoyable and interesting 3 days was had by all. I'm sure all students will be talking about the "pigs" on the Island for years to come.

We are in our last few weeks of school and have a very busy time ahead. Year 6/7 have been given their Science Assessment/ Mini project to day and will be expected to complete it by the due date of Thursday 27th November. It is expected that students will use both in school and home time to complete this assessment.

Sue Ford



Cnr McKenzie & Shelldrake Roads,
Saturday 6th December at Noon.

Machinery, Motor Vehicles, Hardware, Tools,
Timber, Tank – Tip Truck, MotorBikes, 8 Tonne Tip Truck – Diesel,
Furniture, White Goods, Jewellery, Collectables, Pool Table, Electric
Organ, Televisions, CD Player, Bric-a Brac, and More...
(Vendor Stock Welcome)
Viewing from 9.00am

Canteen & Booth – Ridgeland's P&C.
Enquiries: Rockhampton Auction Rooms
Phone/Fax: 49226566
Mobile: 0400421961

QCWA Ridgeland's Branch Christmas Lunch.

A Christmas lunch is being held on 3rd December, 2003 at 12 noon at the Southside United Sports Club, Jardine park, Wandal Road. Husbands are invited. Please bring a gift to the value of \$5.

RSVP by 28th November

Joyce 49345120

Ann 49341421



Ridgeland's and District Show News.

- Application has been made for a grant to upgrade and refurbish a building at the showgrounds to house the Fitzroy Shire Centenary Memorabilia.
- The next annual show on Saturday 05.06.03 will include a DEXTER FEATURE SHOW and BARREL RACES.

Victoria Park Tennis Club News.

On Friday 7th November, Francis Witt won the Junior Tennis Association's Bellert Cup for the most improved player for the year overall. (Kaylene Chippendale won this trophy in 1995).

The Trophy has been running since 1957.

Kyle Barney won the most co-operative beginner boy.

Francis also won the B Grade Singles and Doubles (with Travis Duff) on Sunday 16th November.

Club Cricket News.

Kym Barney has excelled himself at last weekend's game, taking 5/12 and making 28 runs off the bat. Ashley Boon also plays for Brothers, helping the team defeat Gracemere. Travis Duff made 17 runs for Gracemere.

WHAT'S ON

Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club

Rhee-Tae-Kwan-Do nights
6.30pm
Contact Raelee 49223737

Learn to Dance Classes

With Janet

are on again
Thursday Nights
Stanwell Hall
7.30pm to 9.00pm
Small charge to cover
cost of hall.

Keep this date free!

Ridgelsands Show
5th June 2004

QCWA Ridgelsands Branch

Christmas Lunch.

03.12.03. at 12 noon
Southside Sports Club
Husbands invited.
RSVP 28.11.03
Ph: 49345120
49341421

Ridgelsands School Concert

Wednesday 10th December
7.00pm

MEETINGS

Ridgelsands Show

Wednesday
7.30pm 10.12.03
Ridgelsands Show Grounds
Phone: 49345135

QCWA

Ridgelsands Branch meets
9.30am, 1st Wednesday of
month

Stitch and Chat Group

Meets 9.30am
2nd & 4th Tuesday of month
QCWA room.
All welcome.
Ph: 49345120

Ridgelsands P&C Meeting

2nd Wednesday
every month
Phone: 49345518

Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club

General Meeting
7.30pm
Monday 8th December 2003
At Alton Downs Sports Club.
Contact: 49341604

NOTICES

For Sale

ISEKI 6000 4WD
Tractor with 6ft Howard slasher
Both in good condition.
Phone: 49286761

For Sale

Queen size polished timber –
framed water bed.
V.G.C. \$250
Brother 546, 4 thread overlocker.
V.G.C. \$200.
Phone: 49345145

For Sale

Fiat Tractor 411R Series
45HP with Slasher
\$4300
Phone: 49341090

For Sale

Karakar Rancher Double Horse Float
Open Top. Registered July'04, RWC.
Good Condition \$2300 ONO
Ph: 49341467
Graham & Sharon West.

For Sale

Muscovy Ducks & Goslings
Phone: 49341404

For Sale

1994 Mitsubishi truck 2.5 ton
Roadworthy 8mths rego
Cargo Gates, Good Con.
Phone: 49345519

Give Away

Six Kittens
2 females, 4 males
Ready 1st November
Phone: 49345146

Wanted

Loving home out of town for
Boxer X red heeler Male 2yrs
Labrador X blue heeler Male
1yr 6mths
Phone 0407587495

Wanted to Buy

Second hand smooth-soled riding
boots in good condition.
All sizes
Phone 49341056
Julie Paddison

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- Country homewares and much more

Come in today and have a browse and our friendly staff will help you find that perfect gift.

Christmas catalogue out late November.

Opportunity for Ridgелands Student.

Recently, a local schoolgirl was invited by the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) of the University Of New South Wales to attend a residential course to further her interest and understanding of mathematics.

Erica Ward took part in the inaugural Australian Secondary School Educational Talent Search (ASSETS) programme. This programme offers learning experiences outside the walls, beyond categories and boundaries and towards a higher level of challenge to that conventionally offered to students in their middle years of schooling.

Erica is in Year Eight at The Cathedral College and was selected due to her high achievement results in tests conducted by the University Of New South Wales during her Primary years at Ridgелands State School.

Erica's Report.

On the 5th October, 2003, I departed via aeroplane to Brisbane, there catching a connecting flight to Sydney, arriving at approximately 9.30am. At 2.30pm, I, along with twenty other students and Sara, (a Residential Leader - RL) left Sydney Airport and embarked on an hour long drive to Vision Valley, Arcadia. Upon arrival, Helen Dudeney, the programme co-ordinator for GERRIC, met us and informed us of where our rooms were, and that the opening ceremony would commence at 4.00pm. During the ceremony we met our teachers and RL's.

After Dinner we started our workshops. My teacher, Me Tung, started by explaining the pre-test he sent out, then we started working from the two booklets he gave us. We worked mainly on general mathematics (graphing x,y equations, simultaneous equations,, solid geometry and trigonometry) though we did do some applied mathematics (vectors mainly). For fun, we attempted three projects during the week: the first being to make either a bridge or tower out of raw spaghetti (I made a bridge with my classmate, Claire) the second to build a self-propelled boat (Claire and I made one out of aluminium with a wire frame and a propeller) and the third was to get people to support the first project by signing their names on our sign-up sheet (every three people who signed up were one 'point'). In addition to the workshops, the group also participated in various activities including soccer, archery, rock climbing, canoeing and vertical challenge (included climbing a ladder made of rungs held 1.5 metres apart, and jumping off a 13 metre tree (with a harness of course!) Everything went smoothly in these activities, excluding the incident when my group was canoeing and two of the RL's capsized the canoe my room mate and myself were sharing.

On the 10th October, 2003, I departed Sydney on a plane to Brisbane (which, by the way, experienced an awful lot of turbulence) and caught my connecting flight to Rockhampton (which was again very rough).

By Erica Ward.

Merry Christmas



Morinish Landcare Group.

What a year it has been for the Morinish Landcare Group. We started out looking at a new management tool - EMS (Environmental Management Systems) to look after the land, look after the environment and to look after our investments. Farmers are looking after the land, but there are newer ideas out there and it does not hurt to look at them, especially when your income comes from the land and you wish to leave it to our future generations.

We had a major Rubbervine programme for the year and most of the programme has been completed. We are all looking skyward at the moment as the dry is still with us. So if, or when the rain comes I'm sure the programme will be finished.

The Ridgелands Show was a great success. Linda Edgar ran the school project for the children and had a lot of entries to judge. The Landcare site gives a look at what some of the community is doing to look after the land, big and small. Farmers/Graziers have all the responsibility to look after all the land, but when some of our problems come from outside the fence, eg weeds, we are at a disadvantage. So the next time you go to Ridgелands Show come and look at how you can help your community and help look after our land.

We had guest speakers from Longreach, Dalby, Charters Towers, Emerald and Rockhampton. The Fitzroy Basin Association and DPI have done a lot of work with the people in the Morinish Landcare Group and I would like to also say thankyou to them. If not for the help we receive we would be alone, and in times of change to look after our land everyone needs to give a hand. So next year if you want to support Landcare, FBA and I are looking at starting a landcare group at Alton Downs.

Thankyou to all who help, especially to the executive for 2002-2003 – Bill Christie, Kay Morris, Nev Mills and all who have taken part in making our land a better place to live.

Merry Christmas

Rockhampton Veterinary Clinic

Alistair Rodgers B.V.Sc., M.V.St and Associates.

www.rockyvet.com.au

Cnr Dean & Gair Streets, North Rockhampton

Ph: 4928 4266 (all hours) Fax: 4926 2446

Horse & Cattle Services

Our Equine Unit, located in Bawden Street, just up from Lakes Creek Road, provides an excellent Surgical Facility and Hospital Stalls (please see map below). This purpose built facility has an operation theatre, fully padded recovery stall, hospital stalls, vet crush and loading ramp all for the benefit of you and your horses. Our veterinarians have been in horse and cattle practice for many years enabling them to assure you of a high standard of treatment. We are supported by regular visits by specialist equine surgeon Dr. Philip Burguez B.V.Sc from Brisbane. Please ring the main clinic before visiting the Equine Unit.

Alistair Rodgers is the holder of a Masters degree in beef cattle production and management in addition to having extensive cattle experience. He is a certified pregnancy test examiner and approved in bull breeding soundness evaluation, in addition to being trained in bovine embryo transfer and herd management. We also have facilities for cattle and horse reproductive work at Gracemere.

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- Artificial Insemination and Reproduction Service
- Skilled diagnostic and general surgical services
- Endoscopy
- Electrocardiology (E.C.G)
- Full in house clinical pathology laboratory
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Visiting Equine Surgical Specialists
- Diagnostic Radiography and Ultrasound
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Farm Visits and Property Management
- Excellent Hospital Facilities



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E rockyvet@wodda.com



Fire Permits.

In Queensland there is no designated "Fire Season" and a "Permit to Light a Fire" is required at all times for a fire which is larger than 2metres in any direction.

The procedures for applying for a Permit to Light a Fire are :

1. Apply for an Application for a "Permit to Light a Fire" (Form RF11A) from your Fire Warden. This application may be made in writing, by telephone, facsimile or orally.
2. Notify each and every neighbour of your intention to burn. Specific details of location, area and special precautions should be provided at the time.
3. If requested, present the completed Form RF11A to the Fire Warden to obtain a "Permit to Light Fire" (Form RF 10B)

It is an offence against the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 to:

- Fail to comply with any conditions of a permit
- Leave a fire unattended
- Fail to take reasonable measures to extinguish any fire in such circumstances as to allow the fire to escape into another property or
- Provide misleading or false information in respect of an application for a permit
- In addition, the person lighting the fire may be held responsible for any damage caused by the fire.

Firewardens.

Alton Downs
Sid Hoare 49341147

Garnant
Nev Milner 49345137

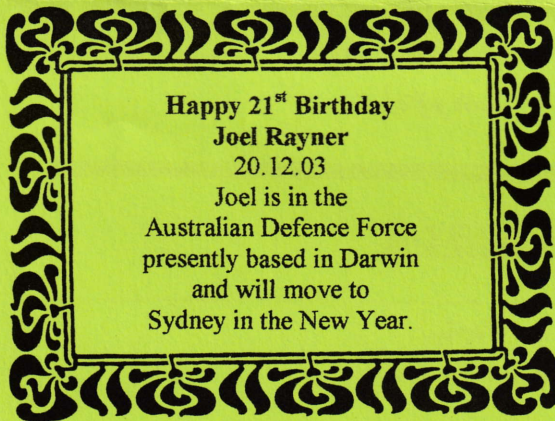

Aricia (Upper Morinish)
Graham Farmer 49347653

Morinish
Norm Richards 49345545

Calioran
Robert Smith 49345145

Faraday
Rob Chippendale 49345564


Dalma
Roy Shannen 49345921

Transition to Work

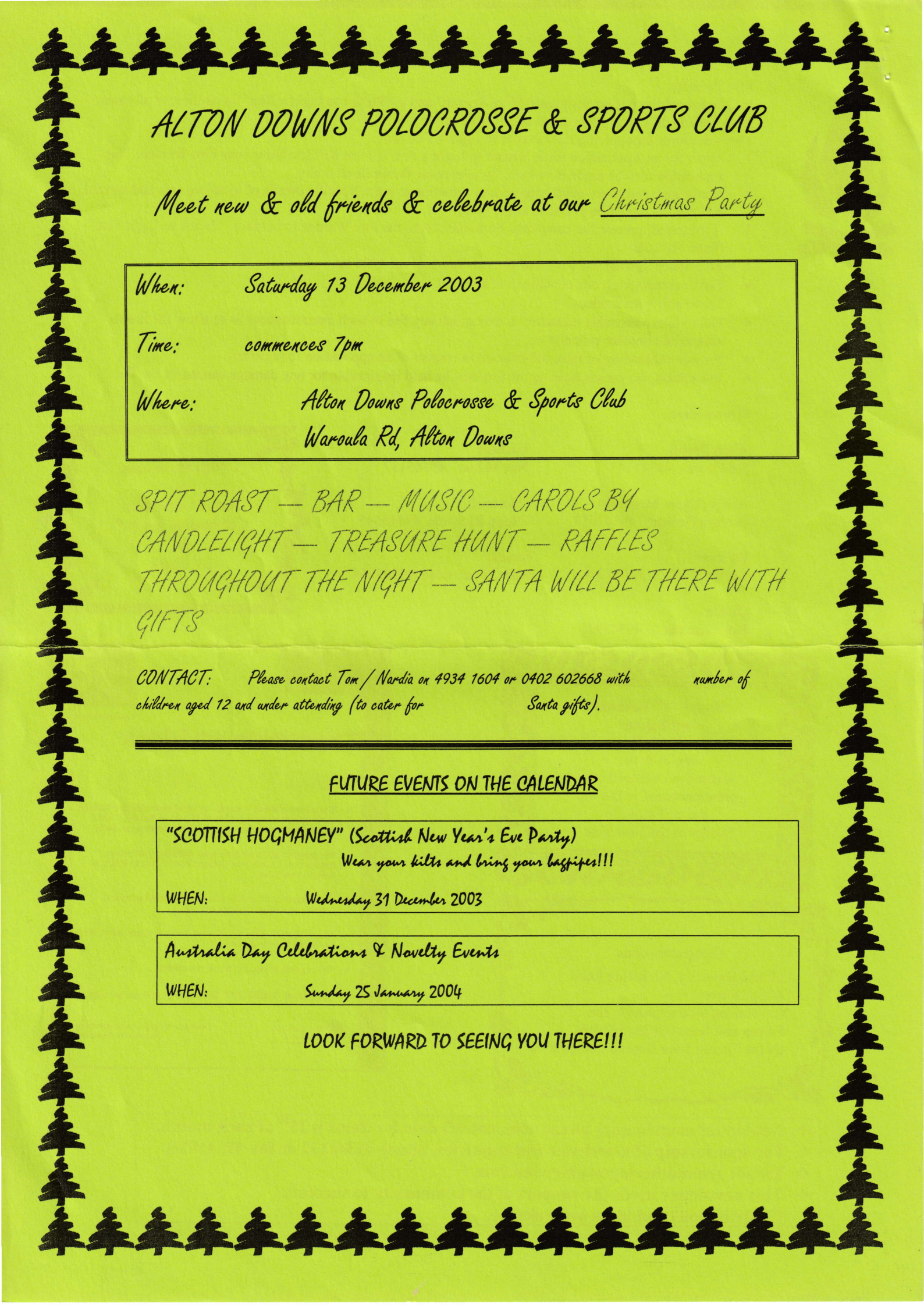
Transition to Work

- If you are a **parent, a carer, or aged over 50**, and thinking about getting a job, call **1800 637 193** to find out if TAFE Queensland and the Transition to Work program can help.
- The program offers practical help, including one-to-one contact to talk about your options, and funding to help you develop your skills.
- The program is for people who are not receiving income support, as well as for those who are.
- You must be looking for paid work, and have been out of the workforce for over 2 years.
- The program is free and places are limited.
- **CALL NOW 1800 637 193** to find out if you are eligible.

 TAFE Queensland
Queensland Government
Department of Employment and Training

Funding for this program is provided by the Commonwealth Government

- ❖ Newsletter contributors please note, cut-off date for items is 15th of each month.
- ❖ For sponsorship of newsletter and enquiries, phone 49341132 or fax 49341076.
- ❖ Email: aroundtheridges@bigpond.com
- ❖ This newsletter needs the support of the community to succeed. Contributions and ideas are welcome.



ALTON DOWNS POLOCROSSE & SPORTS CLUB

Meet new & old friends & celebrate at our Christmas Party

When: Saturday 13 December 2003

Time: commences 7pm

Where: Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club
Waroula Rd, Alton Downs

SPIT ROAST — BAR — MUSIC — CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT — TREASURE HUNT — RAFFLES
THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT — SANTA WILL BE THERE WITH
GIFTS

CONTACT: Please contact Tom / Nardia on 4934 1604 or 0402 602668 with _____ number of
children aged 12 and under attending (to cater for _____ Santa gifts).

FUTURE EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR

"SCOTTISH HOGMANEY" (Scottish New Year's Eve Party)

Wear your kilts and bring your bagpipes!!!

WHEN: Wednesday 31 December 2003

Australia Day Celebrations & Novelty Events

WHEN: Sunday 25 January 2004

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!