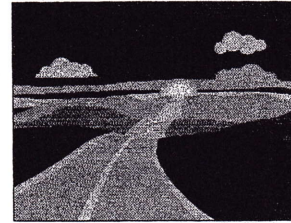


AROUND THE RIDGES

and a bit beyond



Issue 16 November, 2004.

A community and school newsletter.

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Kidman Springs to Alton Downs

Over one metre of rain in three months seems like a dream to us here in drought - stricken Central Queensland. But that's what we had during the wet season we spent on Kidman Springs. And as we slot back into 'normal' life in Alton Downs it's as if we never left, and the last nineteen months have been a dream as well.

We left Kidman Springs on May 21st with our wagon and six horses – the five that travelled up to Kununurra with us as well as our new recruit – a little brumby that Kelly had caught and broken in while we were up there. The first stage of Top Springs was lovely, even though the weather was quite hot. The wet season had been good so there was plenty of grass and many of the creeks were still running. The Dashwood Crossing on the Vic River at VRD was still a foot over the causeway.

A big storm hit the area the day after we got to Top Springs, and rain over the next few days cooled things down a bit. The next stage was the Murrnaji, and after a few days' rest we headed out along the Buchanan Highway then turned south and followed the new railway line down to Newcastle Waters.

We had another few days rest at No 8 bore, Elliott (the horses had done nine days straight from Top Springs) while we waited for the horse transport to come. We had found that six horses on the road was just too many to look after, with shoes, feed and water to consider, so we decided to put the oldest one, Tails, on a transport home. It was 10.30 at night when the truck came through Elliott, and old Tails seemed to know what was going on. He bounded into the truck as soon as the tail gate was down, before we had a chance to say goodbye!

Continued over.

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The Iker Family moved from Monto to 'Mostowie', Ridglands in April 1980 and then to 'Hilltop', Reids Road, Alton Downs in 1986. We moved to our current address at 16 Delrosa Road in 1991. We have operated our hay and rural services business in the Alton Downs district for 24 years. We have always supported our local clubs and community projects. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our old customers and to welcome any new ones.

Then it was onto the Downs again and eight days directly into the wind across the Barkly. It was very cold and very hard going for the horses. Then after a short cut through Anthony Lagoon we were back on the Tableland Highway again and onto Brunette Downs. Even though we had changed direction we were still heading into the wind, in fact we had a headwind for the first 2000km of our journey home.

There was still plenty of grass around as we turned onto the Ranken stock route, but as we came into Alexandria the grass disappeared. They didn't have a good wet season at all at the homestead, although the grass improved as we headed further east across the property.

We had a rest day again at Bore No 36 on Alex, and then headed south through Avon Downs before crossing back into Queensland on the Barkly Highway. We camped at Camooweal racecourse for a few days, then followed the Georgina south through Barkly Downs and Headingly.

We covered the 374km from Camooweal to Dajarra in ten days, with only one day off at Headingly. It was very cold during this time, with the headwind as strong as ever. After giving the horses four days rest in Dajarra, we set off for Middleton, passing through Chatsworth, Toolebuc and Mackunda stations, and skirting Phosphate Hill and Osborne mines. Again we made good time, covering the 230km from Dajarra to Toolebuc in just seven days before having a day off.

We came onto the Winton/Boulia highway 15km west of Middleton, but were able keep off the bitumen by following the graded stock route track. Grass was pretty sparse along some sections here, and on two days we had to travel 43km to find half decent feed for the horses.

We stocked up with horse feed and supplies in Winton, but didn't have our intended rest days because there was not enough feed around.

Muttaburra was our next town, and we took the road through Aldingham, Kywong, Mahrigong and Eskdale, where we finally managed a couple of rest days. We got a few groceries on the way through Muttaburra, then found a nice spot with good grass on the Thomson River where we spent the weekend.

We then followed the stock route out past Bowen Downs, which was first settled in 1862 and covered two and a half million acres. There was really good grass along the laneways here and the roads were quite good. Through this section we used the full moon to advantage, travelling through the night and resting through the heat of the day. Then we got permission to cut across the southern edge of Lake Galilee, a salt lake discovered during the making of the original track from Clermont to Bowen Downs. We covered the 207km from Muttaburra to Lou Lou Park, where we had our next rest day, in just six days.

Then it was another six days travel through Laglan and Aspley State Forest into Clermont where we again spent several days.

It was another six day stage from Clermont to Lotus Creek, including two big days (37km and 40km) between Clermont and Dysart. It was here that we noticed the countryside becoming noticeably drier, although there was still a fair body of dry grass around.

As on the trip up, the Connors Range was our only stumbling block. Tim Olive from Apis Creek towed our wagon across the 13.5km of the range while we followed him on the horses. Then we harnessed up again and went through Develin, Clifton and Develin Creek before getting back onto the Marlborough Glenroy Road. It's quite depressing to see the Fitzroy River at Glenroy Crossing—just a series of dirty puddles.

And then, quite suddenly, it was all over and we were home. Tails is back home with the team, and it's humbling to note the bond that they have forged between the six of them. We travelled the 3035km from Kidman Springs in 133 days, with 33 rest days along the way. And it was the trip of a lifetime.

Susan Porter

GRAPHICS AUST. Designer art and photography. Photo Restoration. Ph:49225294	Top Quality Hay & Chaff for sale. "Riverside" "Forgotten Hero" & "Bagger Vance" at Stud Ph. 49341302	Saleyard Stockfeed Jim Atkinson Mob: 0427 223 474 Fax: 49341503	Hay, Chaff, Domestic Water Cartage, Backhoe Hire, Granite C. Class & Round/Square Bales IKERS Ph: 49341135
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RIDGELANDS STATE SCHOOL

Dear Parents/ Carers

Term 4 looks like being another busy one with a swimming carnival, sport, school disco and school concert, and only 10 weeks to fit it all in.

Summer inter-school sport for grades five to seven re-commenced this term, and already we have seen a bowling hat trick in our junior cricket team by Travis Duff. (See our sport report)

Swimming classes commenced at Crescent Lagoon and students have appreciated them during the hot weather.

On the pupil-free day, teachers from Ridgeland attended a number of professional development activities at Rockhampton State High school. They joined teachers from Rocky High, Crescent Lagoon, The Hall and the Alton Downs cluster in looking at initiatives in the "Middle Years" of schooling and Professional Standards for Teachers, as well as attending workshops in "Reading strategies", "Dimensions of Learning" and "Assessment".

We are having water problems at the moment, as there is a substantial leak in the pipeline from the creek to the school. This may take some days to fix. Hence we are not watering gardens and students have been advised to be even more water wise than they normally are

Our stage 2 application for permanent water has been sent and went for consideration to the State panel on Tuesday 19 October. We should know the results by early December. Keep your fingers crossed.

Thanks to Vivian Duff for all his work and help on the application. Thanks also to Peter Hunt, Simon Ruddick and McCrackens for producing the quote which was used to inform the application.

Congratulations to Daniel and Holly-Jo Pye who represented the school at the Queensland Inter-school Equestrian State Championships, and achieved excellent results.

Regards

Mick Byrne

Junior Cricket

The junior cricket team played a one day game against Frenchville last Friday. It was memorable for the first hat trick bowled for Alton Downs (that I know of) by Travis Duff. In his only over he bowled a "three wicket maiden". Well done, Travis. Our best batsmen were Ashley Boon who made 14 before being caught and Kym Barney who made 10 retired. Alton Downs made 71 runs to Frenchville's 35.

Ridgeland Hall Association News

The annual meeting was held in September and the following Office Bearers were elected:

President: K.G.Stewart 49 345153

Vice President: R.White 49 345146

Secretary: K Watts 49 333706

Treasurer: K. Milner 49345137

Hall Bookings: K. Milner 49345137

The members of the Ridgeland Hall Association are very grateful for receiving funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for the replacing of the guttering on the Hall and the painting of the interior of the Hall.

The kitchen has also recently been upgraded and painted with a new refrigerator, stove and double sink installed. This work was carried out to comply with Fitzroy Shire Council Health Regulations. **Thus the Hall is available for hire for parties and any other functions requiring catering facilities.**

Many thanks to Mr Jim Pearce MP for his support for this project. As most people would be aware it is an ongoing commitment to maintain and improve the facilities available at the Hall

Kevin Watts
Secretary.

Feel Great with elucidate Phone Brook or Chris Ph: 49278388 Mob:0427 211 789	Tractor Central 28 O'Shanesy St. Gracemere Ph.4933 4500 www.tractorcentral.com.au	Cliff Munro 204-206 William St Mechanical Repairs Ph. 49224882	Wandal Service & Suspension Centre Ph. 49224881 Quick Fit Tyre Ph. 49273360
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DALMA SCHOOL NEWS

Term 4 is well underway and is very full on with students being involved in a Unit "That's Entertainment" Author/illustrator Glenda Gabrielle and Publisher Richard Kooistra will visit our school on Tuesday, 19 October at 10am. Glenda will talk about her life and how she became an author/illustrator. She will talk about the process of writing a book and reasons why she is so particular with her illustrations. Richard will talk about the process of publishing a book. He will have the first printings of the book "True Blue Christmas" and the changes that were necessary before the book could be published. This hard copy book is available to purchase for \$23.95 on the day and it will be signed by the author. Parents and community members are welcomed to attend this session. At the P & C social there will be a movie time where community members can view students work entitled 'That's Entertainment'.

Over the September holidays

The **Stanke** family travelled to Mt Isa for the Pony Club State Championships for Sporting. This was a very successful trip with Emma being placed 1st Overall 10/Under and Highest Points for the day. Kyle received 4th Overall 15/Under and Sarah achieving two 5ths. Well Done! The Stanke family would like to thank the community for all their support.

The **Cunningham** family competed in several tennis competitions with Tiana winning the Overall Trophy for the American Tournament played at Ridgeland. Also Rhys, Brodie and Brittany scored high results.

Brett Estreich competed in the Kabra Mudracing where he had a very successful win, being placed 3rd in the Junior Drag division. Top Racing!

The **Anderson** Family enjoyed a Pony Club camp for 3 days at the Alton Downs grounds where they had heaps of fun.

P & C NEWS

The P & C are holding a community BYO, BBQ and social at the school, where we will draw the Great Keppel Island Raffle. All Welcome.

The Silvercircle fundraiser due to start on the 16/10/04 has been delayed to a date to be advised, as all numbers haven't been sold. If anyone would like to purchase a Silvercircle number please contact Margo on Ph: 49345958.

Thank you for your support

Moira Downes

Acting Principal

Dalma State School

Ridgelands Show News.

The Show was given a grant of \$10797 from Jupiter's Casino to complete the museum and it is now finished.

We are now in the process of applying for grant money to furnish the museum ready for memorabilia.

The water supply upgrade has been shelved for the time being.

Show Society Meeting 10th November, 2004.

Barry Wyvill Diesel Services Ph. 0418 700 293 A/h. 49277781 All mechanical repairs.	Engine Centre Danny McNamarra Ph. 49341473 Mob. 0438 341 473 22 Sheehan Rd	ENZED 131 Gladstone Rd Hose & fitting service Ph. 49277622	Fitzroy Nurseries Open 7 days 8am-5pm Fruit trees/ Ornaments Ph. 49272388 Fax. 49223203
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WHAT'S ON

Alton Downs Hall Committee
Dance on 30th October 2004
and

Bowls second Saturday night
of each month.

Rhee-Tae-Kwan-Do

At Alton Downs Polocrosse
and Sports Club
Tuesday nights, 6.30pm
49223737

Date Claimer

**Alton Downs Hall Celebrates
100 years**
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NOTICES

Wanted to Buy

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Julie Paddison

Needed By Ridgелands Equestrian Team

Donations of black Jodphurs.
All sizes Phone Julie Paddison
49345518

Give Away

Used truck tyres
Phone Libby on 49341881

Found

Boy's Bike near pumps at river
off Sheldrake Road last week of
school holidays
Phone 49341020

Wanted

Cleaning lady
One day per week
Must be reliable
Phone 49384208
Business Hours.

For Sale

Turkeys for Christmas
Please phone Barbara
On 49341811

MEETINGS

QCWA

Ridgелands Branch meets
9.30am, 1st Wednesday of
month

Stitch and Chat Group

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

Ridgелands P&C Meeting

2nd Wednesday
every month
Phone: 49345518

Ridgелands Show Meeting

Wednesday, 10th November
7.30 pm.
Agenda: Discuss museum,
2005 Show
Visitors welcome

For Sale

1999 Ford Festiva

Wf Hatchback Trio 3dr Man 5sp
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Repainted as new, new windscreen
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Speak to Greg

Phone: 49784848

Our next issue of the newsletter will be the last issue
for 2004. Please note that the cut-off date for
contributions is **Nov 15**.

Enquiries: 49341132 Fax 49341076

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135 Black Gin Creek Rd, Alton Downs 4702.

MS & SM McQuillan
Paining Contractor
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horse"
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Council Comment

Six months ago I had the honour of being elected to represent you in Council, which is a position I take very seriously. Communication plays an imperative part in my role as Councillor. If you have a question or suggestion or complaint don't hesitate to call myself or any other Councillor for that matter. It's no use talking to friends and neighbours about Council when a phone call or letter can often sort out the matter at hand. While it's hard for us to say something that people don't want to hear, more often than not, that's not the case. Gossip, innuendo and past experiences can debilitate perceptions and undermine what we are trying to change and achieve. We are looking to the future by learning from the past and adding new ideas at the present. I'd like to remind you that your Council includes four experienced members and five new Councillors who are enthusiastic and conscientious and all are doing their best for you. Help us to help you. Bye for now.

Cr Christine Ward



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16 Delrosa Road, Alton Downs
Phone: 49341135 or 49341249

Jokes

"Did you know it takes three sheep to make a jumper?"

"I didn't even know they could knit"

Why did the man take his dog to the train station?

What has a coat all winter and pants in summer?

A dog
 To train him.

Success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall.

Anonymous

Please Return

COOKERY SECTION



SALMON AND TOMATO PASTA

1 Lge Can Pink Salmom
 ½ Onion diced fine
 ½ Cup Grated Cheese

1 Can Diced Tomatoes
 ½ t/spoon Crushed Garlic
 Good Pinch Parsley

2 Cups Pasta (cooked)
 Good Pinch Basil
 Pinch Cracked Pepper

Drain Salmon and keep juices. In saucepan put tomatoes, herbs and onion and bring to boil and then simmer for 15-20 mins until reduced a little. When done add juices. In a baking dish put pasta on bottom, flake salmon over the pasta. Then pour over tomato mixture and sprinkle on top the grated cheese. Throw in hot oven (190-200) until melted and brown. Serve with a light salad. (all herbs and spices add to taste) Yummy!!

Christine Ward

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