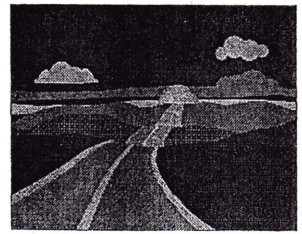


AROUND THE RIDGES

and a bit beyond



Issue 19 March, 2005.

A community and school newsletter.

Phone: 49341132

Fax: 49341076

Email: aroundtheridges@bigpond.com

Please Note: Cut off date for contributions 15th of every month.

A Forgotten Era.

It is very difficult for most of us to really understand what life was like in the early 1920's in the Ridgeland district. James Grant Pattison fills in these details in his collection of accounts of his trips around Central Queensland which were featured in The Morning Bulletin of that era. These have been collected and republished by the central Queensland Family History Association Inc. in their latest publication "On the Track" by Battler (Pattison's pen name). Battler travelled around the district in his horse and sulky from early times and later used his car for trips further afield. His articles provide a valuable lesson in the social history of the district. One such article covers a trip from Alton Downs to Ridgeland and Morinish and provides a valuable insight into farm life as it was in early 1923. This was the time of the Soldier Settlement Scheme, which resulted in many soldier settlers walking off their land and being replaced by other settlers. There is also reference to earlier settlers who were battling on. Battler refers to his visit to Jim Chippendale's "Hill 50" (he camped there for the night). He marvelled at how hard Jim and the other settlers worked to successfully dairy and grow crops of dry land cotton, which was being promoted as the main cash crop for the district. His visit to "Fig Tree Hill" highlights the versatility of the Dobeli Family particularly Albert, who developed and fabricated fairly complex farm equipment as well as producing a range of crops including lucerne, maize, cotton, pumpkins and melons. In this "article", Battler recounts stories told to him by Jack Sullivan, an early settler, miner and current postman. After leaving Ridgeland, Faraday and Morinish were visited, where he visited "Uplands", my father's selection (now owned by Mr Barry Harmsworth) and commented on the crops of cotton, melons and English potatoes as well as the hard times experienced in previous years. What was really eye-opening was the range of options tried by these settlers, their resilience in times of drought and the folly of a government in establishing a closer settlement programme in an area so lacking in a reliable water availability. Those settlers were certainly made of strong stuff. My father, commenting on his own abilities, jokingly said he had what you needed – "a strong arm, a stout heart and a weak mind". My copy of "On the Track" by James Grant (Battler) Pattison was obtained from the Arcade News and Casket, East Street. Price \$25. by **John Fletcher**.

This newsletter is sponsored by:

McCracken's Water Services Pty Ltd.

McCracken's Water Services is happy to be involved with this publication, to help keep our entire district involved and up to date with what has been, is, and about to happen Around the Ridges.

McCracken's Water Services started out in 1986 with the acquisition of AIS McCracken's Sales by now sole owner and managing director Jim Wedge. Jim started out in an old tin shed at 49 Bolsover Street, where the Tannachy Specialist Centre is now situated.

With his 14 years Southern Cross training behind him he was regarded as one of the next generation of pumpin and irrigation specialists.

This expectation has proven correct. From those humble beginnings with one tin shed in Rockhampton, AIS McCrackens Sales expanded to Yeppoon, Emerald, Biloela, Dalby and Toowoomba, with all managers and staff being trained by Jim himself. From there the business has kept pace with the industry to a stage where today we now operate 18 stores from Mareeba and Cairns in the North to Bayswater and Monbulk in Victoria. to be the largest privately owned pumping and irrigation company in Australia.

Continued over.

The vast majority of branches are managed and staffed by local people who understand each district's particular needs. This is no more evident than in Rockhampton where Ridgeland's old boy Peter Hunt has come through the ranks of pump mechanic to sales to have successfully managed the branch for the past 5 years.

Since its inception in 1986, McCracken's Water Services has thrived as a company due mainly to the friendly prompt and professional attention that is given to every inquiry, whether it be to water a back yard or back paddock anywhere Around the Ridges. So if you are looking for anything to do with pumping or water, please see any of the team at McCracken's Water Services and get the right advice the first time.

Or call them on 49223680.

McCracken's Water Services – proudly supporting the Ridgeland's District.



McCRACKEN'S
WATER SERVICES
PUMPS AND IRRIGATION

56 Bolsover Street
PO Box 910
Rockhampton
Qld. 4700

Peter Hunt
Branch Manager

Telephone: (07) 4922 3680
Fax: (07) 4922 2124
Mobile: 0418 799 680
AH: (07) 4934 1313
Email: rockham@mccrackens.com.au

SADDLE & RUG REPAIRS

Phil & Jayne Owen

is moving to

43 Bridge Street (Lakes Creek Road)
Just before All Hours Glass and Woods Feed.

Ph: 4921 2225



All Types of Repairs
New Gear Made to Order

Manufacturer of Exercise
Saddles & Horse Rugs

90th Birthday.

Phyllis Adams, lifetime resident of Dalma, turns 90 on the last day of February this year and invites her relatives and friends to celebrate this important occasion with her at the Dalma Hall at 10.00am on Saturday 5th March 2005.

No presents by request but a plate of food to share would be appreciated.

Morinish Landcare News.

Hi to all,

We are here in a New year 2005 and Morinish Landcare is looking into new ideas for our group. At our first meeting we had an interesting lady from Brisbane, talking about a new programme called Weedwatch. This programme is to be managed by Cooperative Research Centre(CRC), Jane Morton has the position of developing this programme and we are one of the areas lucky enough to be asked to be involved and Morinish is the first to be called upon with Townsville being another. Firstly the problem with weeds is they are invasive and degrade our environment and reduce the health of our animals, people, plants and our income.

Most people don't know but it costs farmers 14% of their income. Weeds cost \$14 billion a year to the Agricultural industry.

With this early detection of weeds not yet on the register, we should get the jump on the nasty and stop the spread of the weeds before they take hold of our country. With all the work we do in Landcare we need more people to help to look after our environment. The programme aims to have early prevention and early intervention to be more cost effective in dealing with potential new weeds. People will be trained in recognition of weeds, collection of specimens. Weeds will be sent to the Queensland Herbarium for formal identification.

The next budget in council is coming up. So the next round of Herbicide subsidy will go fast. So if you want help to purchase chemical for weed poison on your property, ring Fitzroy Shire council soon.

President Morinish Landcare.

John Salmon

Arcardia Self Storage
Ph. 49331499
Mob. 0407 332 425

VJ Projects PTY. LTD.
Ph/fax. 49331836
Mob. 0419 647 772

ADNOUGHT
Sheetmetal Fabrications
Ph. 49361688
Fax. 49361812

S.W. Kele & Co. PTY.
LTD. PreCast Concrete
products
Ph. 4927 4505

RIDGELANDS STATE SCHOOL NEWS

Since the last letter I have received written approval to advance our "Permanent Water" project from Term 3 to this term. The committee is currently reworking the specifications for the tendering process to commence.

The P & C's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wed 09 Mar in the school library at 7:00pm. All welcome.

As I'm sure you already know the school was robbed last Wednesday 09 Feb. Thieves broke into the pre-school/grade 1/2 building and stole the Community Newsletter Committee's computer as well as a school computer. They also destroyed the television set probably while trying to steal it. On Monday 14 Feb we replaced the destroyed TV with a new one. Unfortunately that night the room was broken into again and the new TV stolen as well as another computer. They also tried to break into the grade 3/4 classroom but were unable to do so. Crime scene detectives have attended on both occasions and have taken fingerprints and collected other evidence. They have also advised us on ways of upgrading security and methods of surveillance. Q build have been to the school and upgraded our security.

If you have seen or heard anything, which may help the police with their investigations, or stop the break-ins, could you please ring the school or the police direct.

On a happier note all our sports' teams have started the year well with wins or draws. Let's hope it continues.

Regards

Mick Byrne Principal

DALMA NEWS

Children at Dalma School appear to be learning some new form of dance shaking heads, waving arms and making sounds with each action.

What we are actually doing is learning Jolly Phonics a programme to help consolidate sound/letter and word recognition, reading and spelling strategies. It's fun as Sharon West, our teacher aide, will attest after her visit to Mt Archer School working in a "big" grade one classroom. We have a brochure for parents that outlines the programme and will hold an open morning for interested parents.

Our latest recruit to the Dalma School brigade is Penny new to the district. We welcome Penny and her family and know they will be great assets and look forward to us working together.

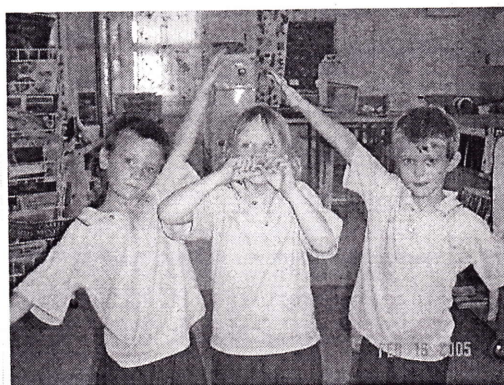
Last Thursday, Constable Brendan O'Neil, dropped in to remind us of safety aspects and that he is readily available to kids and families who may need him. He also outlined some plans for working with our children including a 'bike ed course' in the near future and also to tell us he will be regularly patrolling our roads, so give him a friendly wave and smile.

Anybody interested in receiving our newsletter or other interesting information from the school community, is invited to provide us with E-mail address and we will happily pass it on. What! You don't feel comfortable on a computer? We can help you by providing access and friendly guidance.

While on the topic about what Dalma can offer, we have a tennis court, library, meeting area and sports field. Please feel free to contact the school on 49345902 during school hours to arrange permission and find about any specific conditions from the Department.

Yours in teaching,

Barbara.



Strops Upholstery Horse rugs, Furniture Canvas, Motor, Marine Ph. 49272137 Mob. 0419 024 897	Alma Street Rockhampton Veterinary Surgery Dr. Greg Muir Ph: 49228138 all hours	Peter Lawton Veterinary Service 23 Gladstone Rd Rockhampton Ph.49273688	Gracemere Water Shed 28 O'Shanesy Street .Gracemere Glen Ryan Ph. 49331555
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Ridgeland's Show News.

The opening of the **Museum** is still on track. The Show has lodged an application for funding to fit out the museum.

Please contact Jenny Reeve, Margaret Stewart or Ken Stewart if you have ideas for displays or other input.

Fitzroy Council News.

Hi to all.

Well what a great start to 2005 with Australia Day. No doubt you all read the last News Link and saw who the winners of our shire were. The community had a hard task to decide who was to be Fitzroy winner. This brings me to think of all the groups around the Shire, to all volunteers who volunteer their time, who are all there for the good of their communities. So I ask of those people who are not involved in any group to think about getting involved. It can be very rewarding by meeting people in the Shire, having some fun, a sense of accomplishment, even learn new skills. We have a lot of good groups in the Shire, for e.g. Landcare, Ridgeland's Show, Rodeo, CWA, Hall Communities and for our safety The Rural Fire Groups which are all over the Shire. To all who are in a group pat yourself on the back, because you have made a difference to our community, for a better place to live in Fitzroy Shire.

On to Some Council matters, we have had 64 submissions to the town planning scheme, which its great to see people taking an interest and having a say as it is your town plan.

In the near future State Government will be making amalgamation a topic for everyone to have their say on. I have read some articles on the matter and it seems that not all shires that have amalgamated are too happy. One close to home is the Pioneer Shire with Mackay City. As pointed out in the article by George Christensen/Courier Mail 27 January they only have two representatives and millions of dollars is spent on Big Picture Projects. I see the cost savings to small council in administration. But rural dumps have been closed, lack of money towards sealing of dirt roads, and many of the older residents of the shire say that council services levels have fallen while rates have gone up. We alone can't stop State Government, we need you to help so call your minister, voice your opinion.

By Councillor John Salmon

Hello everyone. Well its been twelve months since the Local Government elections and for the most part it has been and continues to be a challenging and interesting time for me. Most people I guess would have not noticed anything different in that time because the wheels keep turning regardless. The new Council has started to draw up a strategic plan for the Shire's future of which details will be released when it is at that stage. Apparently this is the first time the actual Council (Councillors) has sat down and done this plan from scratch. In the past it was drawn up by the employees and we felt it needed serious adjustments in addressing the long-term future as well as the next 12 months. Sixty- four submissions were received in regards to the Shire Plan and these will be discussed in depth by the Council (Councillors) as well. Thank you to all who came to the Shire Plan Meeting and questions still abound in the district on a lot of issues. Please do not hesitate if you want to have a chat with me. If I don't know I will find out. Take care and bye for now.

Cr Christine Ward.

Alton Downs Hall Centenary.

The Alton Downs Hall Committee Inc wish to invite past and present members and their families to the Alton Downs Community Hall Centenary to be held on 23rd April, 2005 at the Hall at 3.00pm for afternoon tea.

There will be a barbecue and dance. If you have any memorabilia of the Hall to display, please contact Tom Hoare on 49341493 or Joyce Chippendale on 49345120

All welcome.

McCracken's Water Services – Peter Hunt Ph. 49223680 Mob. 0418 799 680	QCWA Ridgeland's Branch. 9.30am 1 st Wednesday of month	Stitch & Chat Group 9.30am 2 nd & 4 th Tues. Ph.49345120	Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club. Fri 6-10pm Ph. 49341604
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Ridgeland State School 2004 Tennis Tournament Finals Results



Championship Final	Francis Witt defeated Anna Reeve	6-3	
A Grade Boys Singles	Francis Witt defeated Travis Duff	7-5	
B Grade Boys Singles	Jordan Thompson defeated Lachlan Dodds	6-3	
A Grade Girls Singles	Anna Reeve defeated Stephanie Ruddick	6-1	
B Grade Girls Singles	Rachel Sewell defeated Jacqueline Fossett	10-8	
A Grade Boys Doubles	Francis Witt & Luke Ruddick defeated Travis Duff & Andrew Hunt	6-2	
B Grade Boys Doubles	Jordan Thompson & Billy Brown defeated Brock Weier & Nathan Thompson	6-4	
A Grade Girls Doubles	Anna Reeve & Stephanie Ruddick defeated Kelly Shepherd & Kimberley Frankish	6-1	
B Grade Girls Doubles	Jacqueline Fossett & Holly-Jo Pye defeated Karlee Munro & Louise Titmarsh	6-3	
A Grade Mixed Doubles	Anna Reeve & Travis Duff defeated Francis Witt & Stephanie Ruddick	6-4	
B Grade Mixed Doubles	Luke Ruddick & Louise Titmarsh defeated Rachel Sewell & Daniel Pye	6-4	

Trophies, medallions and participation certificates were presented by Robert Beak and Frank Witt on Monday December 6th at the Redback Awards Parade.

Congratulations to everyone who participated. The level of competition was outstanding. Well done!! I would also like to thank the students who assisted with umpiring, scoring and being a ball-person throughout the tournament; and Mr Witt for his assistance with the draw and finals umpiring.

'Tricia Ruddick

Table Tennis Finals Results

Boys' Final Francis Witt defeated Ashley Boon
 Girls' Final Anna Reeve defeated Kayla Whitehead

Break-Ins.....

With reports of more break-ins (some are repeat break-ins) in the area it is good to hear and see that our residents are becoming more vigilant in noticing and recording different behaviour. Please check your contents and be sure that you have recorded serial numbers and that you would be able to give police accurate descriptions if the need ever arose.

Jokes

- What's a good way to stop pollution in schools?
- How do you stop a dog from digging in the back yard?
- How do you know if your teacher loves you?

Use unleaded pencils.
Hide the shovel.
She puts kisses by your sums.

Battery World Power for anything Ph. 131760	Alton Downs Boarding Kennels & Cattery Ph. 49341365 Mob. 0419 734 854	Kev Weaver & Co Butchers Ph. 49225043	N. Watkins Cabinetry & Joinery Ph. 49341243 Fax. 49341443
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Alton Downs District Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday December 1st 2004 the following Ridgeland students - Emma, Zoe, Steele, Brodie, Jordan, Luke, Bridie, Nathan, Travis, Andrew, Naomi, Holly-Jo, Daniel, Brock, Rachel and Stephanie competed in the Alton Downs District Swimming carnival held at the Rockhampton Grammar Pool. The morning was a great success with Ridgeland scooping the pool of Age Champions and Runner Ups; and coming second overall to Bouldercombe.

All swimmers need to be congratulated for their tireless efforts in swimming the 50m distance. Well done!

The individual results are as follows -

9yrs Boys - Steele Keily - Runner Up - 2nd freestyle, 3rd backstroke, 1st breaststroke.

9yrs Girls - Emma Keily - Runner Up - 2nd freestyle, 3rd backstroke, 2nd breaststroke.

Zoe Spencer - 3rd breaststroke.

10yrs Boys - Jordan Thompson - Age Champion - 1st freestyle, 2nd backstroke, 1st breaststroke.

Luke Ruddick - Runner Up - 1st backstroke, 3rd freestyle.

11yrs Boys - Nathan Thompson - Age Champion - 1st freestyle, 3rd backstroke, 1st breaststroke, 3rd Open 100m freestyle, 3rd Open 50m butterfly.

Andrew Hunt - 3rd Place Overall - 2nd breaststroke.

Travis Duff - 3rd freestyle.

11yrs Girls - Holly-Jo Pye - Age Champion - 1st freestyle, 1st backstroke, 2nd breaststroke.

Naomi Pierce - Runner Up - 2nd freestyle, 3rd backstroke, 1st breaststroke.

12yrs Boys - Daniel Pye - 3rd Place Overall - 2nd breaststroke.

12yrs Girls - Rachel Sewell - Runner Up - 2nd freestyle, 3rd backstroke, 2nd breaststroke.

Stephanie Ruddick - 3rd breaststroke.

Freestyle Relay results - Juniors (Steele, Luke, Jordan, Bridie) - 1st

Seniors (Stephanie, Rachel, Daniel, Nathan) - 2nd.

Thank you to all the parents who attended and supported our swimmers.

'Tricia Ruddick

ALPHA

An invitation is extended to people of any or no denomination, to a video course on "Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant???" by Rev'd Nicky Gumbel and sponsored by St. Luke's Anglican Church, Wandal.

Evenings will run 7.30 – 9pm for 10 weeks. Program: Dessert & Tea/ Coffee/ Wine followed by a 35 – 40 minute video and finishing with an informal discussion.

Non-threatening; Interesting; Humorous; Informative. A happy social evening.

For more information, contact Canon Janne Whitehead 49221971 or Jenny Reeve 49341132.

Gloria Bills Machine Embroidery Monograms, Logos Ph: 49341125 Mob: 0438 341 125	Laurie's Auto Electrics 55 Archer Street Rockhampton Ph. 49221195 Mob. 0407 756 046	Richard Thomson Property & Livestock Ph. 49271308 Mob. 0438 345 928	Brian Dawson Auctions Livestock and Property Marketing Mob: 0417 667 668 A/H: 49213666
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WHAT'S ON

Rhee-Tae-Kwan-Do

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

Ridgelands QCWA

Mothers Day Afternoon
7th May 2005
at Ridgelands Hall
1.30 pm

International Day Luncheon

Knitting and Crochet
Floral Art Competition
at Ridgelands Hall
6th June, 10.00am

ANZAC Day Service

25th April, 4.28am
Alton Downs Hall
All welcome

Alton Downs Committee Centenary

23rd April, 2005
at 3.00pm
at the Alton Downs Hall.

Creative Memories Workshop

Scrapbooking Workshops to be
held at the North Rocky Bowls
Club 1st Tuesday and 3rd Sunday
of every month. Dates for local
workshops held at the Dalma
School to be advised.
Please contact Margo Eistreich
Ph 49345958

Fitzroy River Pony Club.

Open Jackpot Horsesports on
March 6th, commencing at 9.00am
at FRPC grounds near Callaghan
Park. Nominations taken on the
day. Canteen operating
Phone enquiries Tammy Lang
49348362

Dalma Hall Committee

Is holding a working bee to clean
up the Hall grounds on the
27th February commencing
9.00am .
Many hands make light work.

NOTICES

For Sale

2 glass door drink fridge.
Phone Gavin 49345919

For Sale

CD+G Tower Karaoke Machine
With monitor and cassette player
2 mics +VG CDs. Good condition
\$150 ono
Phone : 49341201

Correction.

Jenny Jones was born on 9th
December, 1988 in Scotland not
the 19th.

MEETINGS

QCWA

Ridgelands 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

Ridgelands P&C Meeting

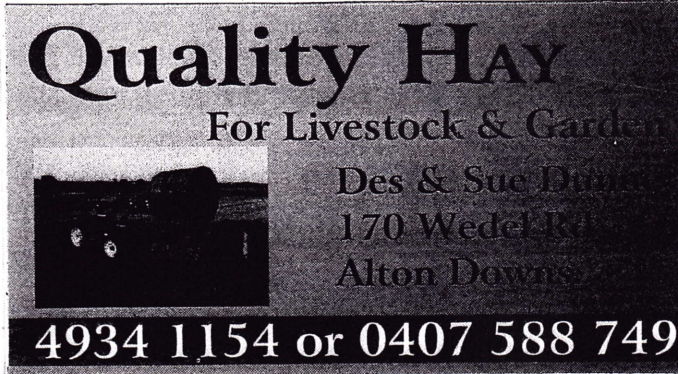
2nd Wednesday
every month
Phone: 49345518

Ridgelands Show Meeting

Wednesday 09.03.2005
7.30pm
Visitors welcome

Alton Downs & Combined District Remembrance Committee

Invites all residents to a meeting
on Friday, March 4th
at the Alton Downs Hall
at 7.30pm
Enquiries: H&J Chippendale
Phone: 49345120



Quality HAY
For Livestock & Garden
Des & Sue Dibley
170 Wedel Rd
Alton Downs
4934 1154 or 0407 588 749

Date Claimer - National Party
Ridgelands Branch are holding a
BBQ & Auction, 17th July at
The Alton Downs Hall 12 Noon

Alton Downs Rural Fire Brigade

**Invite
The Rate Payers and Families
of our district**

to get to know the

**Operation of Fire Appliances
and Barbecue**

**Saturday afternoon
April 2
At 2.00pm.**

**At
The Alton Downs Hall Inc**

Chairman David Osborne 49341144	R.S.V.P. by 29 March 2005	Secretary Peter Craig 49341166
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Water Cartage Drinking & Stock water Ph. 49331752	Regional Affordable Technology Solutions Ph. 49211488 Mob. 0409 387 287	Wanna Bobcat & Truck Hire Ph. 49341193 Mob. 0427 791 520	Bobcat & Truck Hire Geoff Estreich Ph. 49345958 Mob. 0418 799 890
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If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

Mark Twain

This week's Proverb

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Teacher to Six year old: "Where is your homework?"

Six year old: "My mother hasn't done it yet."

General Information about "Around the Ridges and a Bit Beyond"

- ❖ Let our sponsors know you learnt about them through "Around the Ridges"
- ❖ Free school and community notices, birthdays, anniversaries, lost, found.
- ❖ Donations, please for classifieds
- ❖ Business card size ads: Cost \$7 – but are subject to space and may be reduced to text.
- ❖ Newsletter sponsorship available for \$50. This includes your ad and editorial.
- ❖ Place your ad in the next annual business directory.
- ❖ We would like to stress that payment must accompany advertisement.
- ❖ Please make cheques payable to Ridgeland State School P&C Newsletter Account.

Colouring-In Competition

This is the second drawing in a series, leading up to the opening of The O,Sullivan Watson Memorial Museum sometime in 2005. Last month we had The Alton Downs Hall and this month we have The Ridgeland Hall.

