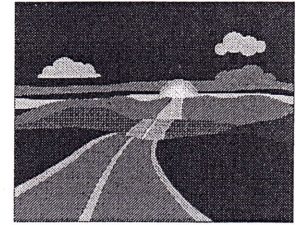


AROUND THE RIDGES

and a bit beyond



Issue 33 July, 2006.

A community and school newsletter.

Phone: 49341132

Fax: 49341076

Email: aroundtheridges@eq.edu.au

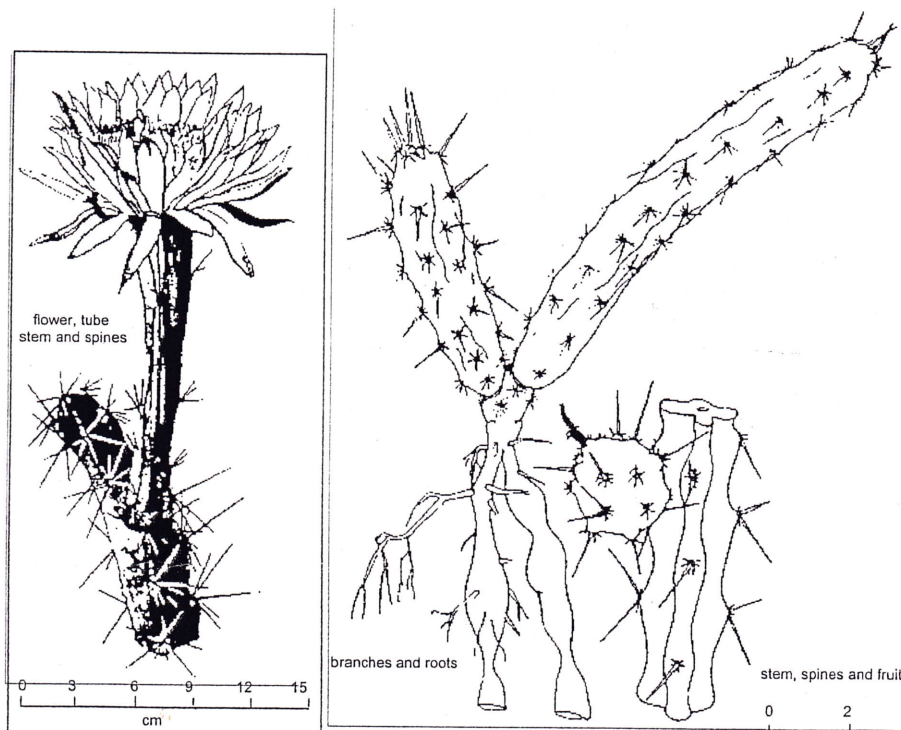
Please Note: Cut off date for contributions 15th of every month.

Harrisia cactus

Moonlight cactus

Eriocereus martini and *Eriocereus tortuosus*

Harrisia Cactus is a native of South America and was introduced to Queensland as a pot plant in the 1890s. Dense infestations choke out pasture. The sharp spines, even in light infestations, make pasture unfavourable to stock and interfere with operations such as mustering. The plant fruits prolifically and seeds are spread widely by birds and animals. Harrisia cactus can also reproduce by stem sections taking root. A deep, underground, tuberous root system allows the plant to survive catastrophes which may kill the above ground parts.



Description

Harrisia cactus is a perennial. The spiny fleshy stems are jointed and form tangled mats about half a metre high. Many branches often lay flat and take root where they touch the ground. Each section is ribbed lengthwise with six ribs; each rib has low, thick, triangular humps at regular intervals. These humps have cushions of grey felty hairs, three to five short spines lying flat, and one to three erect, stiff, very sharp spines 25-3cm long.

The large flowers open at night. Flowers are pink, funnel shaped with a tinge of white. These grow singly near the ends of the stems on a scaly but spineless slender grey/green tube 12—15cm long.

Round red fruits 4—5 cm across have scattered bumps with hairs and spines. Numerous small black seeds are embedded in the white, juicy pulp of the fruit which splits open when ripe. Harrisia cactus roots are of two types. Shallow feeding roots up to 3cm thick and 30 cm—2 m long grow mostly horizontally off a crown, up to 15cm below ground level. Swollen tuberous storage roots descend to a depth of 15—60 cm.

The Problem

Harrisia cactus can form dense infestations that will reduce pastures to a level unsuitable for stock. Harrisia cactus will choke out other pasture species when left unchecked.

The spines are a problem for stock management, interfering with mustering and stock movement. Harrisia cactus produces large quantities of seed that is highly viable and easily spread by birds and other animals. As well as reproducing from seed, Harrisia cactus has long trailing branches that bend and take root wherever they touch the ground. Any broken off portions of plant will take root and grow. Control of this plant is difficult as harrisia cactus has a deep underground tuberous root system.

Habitat and Distribution.

Harrisia is mainly a pest of brigalow and associated softwood country. However, infestations are now appearing in box and ironbark stands and also pine forests. The cactus is shade tolerant and reaches its maximum development in the shade and shelter of brigalow scrub, though established infestations can persist once scrub is pulled.

Harrisia cactus is found in the Collinsville, Nebo, Moranbah, Dingo, Blackwater and Goondiwindi districts with minor infestations occurring in Millmerran, Greenmount, Gatton, Ipswich, Rockhampton, Rannes, Mt Morgan, Alpha and Mitchell.

Control

Dig out plants completely and burn. Ensure that all tubers that can grow are removed and destroyed. Ploughing is not considered an effective means of control unless followed by annual cropping.

Two introduced insects have become established in the field:

- A stem boring longicorn beetle *Alcidion cereicola*
- A mealy bug *Hypogeococcus festerianus*.

The stem-boring beetle only attacks older woody stems. The mealy bug is the more successful control agent and is now present in Harrisia cactus in Collinsville, Dingo, Moranbah, Blackwater, Nebo, Charters Towers and Goondiwindi districts with small colonies established at Alpha, Capella, Rannes, Gatton, Greenmount Millmerran and Rockhampton. If you cannot obtain mealy bugs from your own property or neighbour contact the vegetation management/ weed control/ environmental staff at your local government.

Fact sheets are available from NRMW service centres and the NRMW Information Centre phone (07 3237 1435). Check our web site <www.nrm.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.
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RIDGELANDS SCHOOL NEWS.

I am delighted to announce that the Ridgeland School P & C Association has been awarded an *Australian Government Investing in Our Schools Programme* (IOSP) grant of \$78,969 (GST exclusive) to assist with a "Shade Structure and Play Equipment Refurbishment" project for the school. This will be used to replace the Lower and Upper-school Adventure playgrounds and to install a solid roofed shade structure over the new Lower playground. This project should be complete for the start of the 2007 school year.

I am also pleased to announce that the Ridgeland School application for "Outside School Hours Care Places" has been approved for up to 30 places. We are currently working with the Department of Communities to finalise approvals for Child Care Benefit, the buildings and the programme. We hope to get started by Term 4 this year. If anyone is interested in accessing this service this year or next year please contact the school on 49345518 for more information.

Recently students were involved in a "Science Day" at the school, presented by Dr Peter Eastwell from *Science Time Education*. They attended sessions titled, *Air: Invisible yet so Effective*, and *Science: The Thrill of Discovery* as well as some "hands on" activities done in pairs. It was an excellent learning experience for all involved and we have already invited him back for a day next year. **We are currently taking enrolments for Prep for 2007. Prep kits can be collected from the office along with enrolment forms.**

Regards, Mick Byrne

COOKERY CORNER

PUMPKIN QUICHE

Base: 1 cup plain flour
90g butter
1 tablespoon sour cream

Sift flour, rub in butter, mix to a pliable dough with sour cream. Cover, refrigerate 30 minutes. Roll out pastry to line 23cm flan tin. Bake in moderately hot oven 10 minutes or until light brown. Cool.

When cold pour in filling, bake in moderate oven further 30 minutes or until set.

Filling:

500g pumpkin
3 shallots
250g feta cheese
1 cup cream
pepper
2 rashers bacon (optional)
1 clove garlic (optional)
3 eggs
2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Peel pumpkin, boil, steam or microwave in usual way until tender, drain well, cool.

Chop bacon finely, cook in pan until crisp, add chopped shallots and crushed garlic, cook a few minutes.

Push cheese and pumpkin through sieve, add lightly beaten eggs, cream, parsley and pepper, mix well, add bacon mixture.

You can use any type of grated cheese instead of feta cheese and not put mixture through sieve.

If you are not using bacon add a cup of frozen peas, carrot and corn.

ZUCCHINI, CORN & CORIANDER PIKELETS

1 cup self raising flour
¼ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
¾ cup milk
1 egg, lightly beaten
310 g can corn kernels, rinsed, drained
1 zucchini, grated
1 heaped tablespoon dried coriander
sweet chilli sauce to serve

Sift flour and soda into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre. Gradually add milk and egg, whisking until batter is smooth.

Stir in corn, zucchini and coriander. Season to taste. Stand for 15 minutes.

Grease a frying pan, heat on medium.

Drop tablespoons of mixture into pan, allow for spreading. Cook until bubbles form on surface. When they begin to break, turn and cook other side. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve with chilli sauce.

Happiness keeps you sweet,
Trials keep you strong,
Sorrows keep you human,
Failures keep you humble,
Success keeps you glowing,
But only God keeps you going!

Jokes

Q. Why do bees hum?

Q. What occurs once in a minute,
twice in a moment
and never in a thousand years?

Q. What can you put in a wooden box
that will make it lighter?

Answers
Because they don't know the words.
The letter M.
Holes.

ANSWERS

SIGN OF THE TIMES?

It's a sad fact that as our lives become more and more dependant on the internet and credit cards, it is essential to be aware of the pitfalls from using this convenient and time saving technology .

Things to watch:

- *Always contact your bank in person if you have security concerns.
- *Never reveal credit card or bank account details to strangers online, or throw away bank statements without shredding them first.
- *Beware of PIN number skimmers attached to ATMs and manual credit card number copying.
- *Always personally pass your credit card over for payment and closely monitor the transaction.
- *Beware of the authenticity of telemarketers offering financial seminars, pyramid selling, work from home and get rich quick schemes, bargain holiday deals, charity collections or a phone survey. Hang up.
- *Donate only to charities you are familiar with.

Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club



Polocrosse Carnival Results (as at 15 June 2006)

20 & 21 May 2006 - Eidsvold Carnival

Alton Downs was represented by two Open teams and one Junior Team at Eidsvold Carnival. Unfortunately on this weekend the Open teams did not bring home any trophies however the nail biting games that they both endured were not only enjoyable to play but had spectators on the edge of their seat as the goal scores were very close.

In the Junior Competition the Junior Team came home with the Winners Trophy. This team consisted of:

Jock Purcell	John Williams (First Carnival)
Alex Purcell (First Carnival)	Lachlan Dodds
Zara O'Sullivan	Danica O'Sullivan

3 & 4 June 2006– Calliope Carnival

Once again Alton Downs was represented by three teams. An *A Grade* Open Team, and two *C Grade* Open Teams which included our Junior Players. We had a very successful carnival on this weekend with the Alton Downs 2 Team Winning the C Grade after going through the carnival undefeated. The team consisted of:

Chris Purcell	John Williams (Jnr Player)
Danica O'Sullivan (Jnr Player)	Jock Purcell (Jnr Player)
Zara O'Sullivan (Jnr Player)	Alex Reid

Further prizes went the way of Alton Downs for the weekend with Jock, Zara and Alex being awarded with *Best & Fairest Section* in the C Grade. Well Done!!

Our most enthusiastic player was recognised for his efforts with Kel Booth (6 yrs old) being awarded with a Junior Encouragement Award. Congratulations Kel!!

10 & 11 June 2006– Emerald Carnival (held at Capella Grounds)

Whilst we all arrived and were ready to ride out, it seemed mother nature had other ideas and the heavens opened. After a soggy start to round one, which ended in downpour, it was deemed too wet to continue play and given the obvious onset of rain for the weekend, the official carnival was unfortunately called off.

Upcoming Polocrosse Event

Sub Junior – Junior and Intermediate trials for the 2006 Nationals (24 & 25 June 2006 – Tansey)

These trials are the gateway to being selected to represent Queensland at the Nationals to be held at Camden, NSW in October this year. Good luck to those club members heading down to these trials, we're sure you will do us proud! Note: To date there has been approx 25 Alton Downs Club Members represent the State at the National Titles (several on more than one occasion!!)

Upcoming Carnivals

- 17 & 18 June 2006 – Bauhinia
- 1 & 2 July 2006 – St Lawrence
- 22 & 23 July 2006 – Capella
- 5 & 6 August 2006 – Monto (to be confirmed)

Reminder to all players, during the Polocrosse season, practices are held every Sunday commencing at 9am sharp (except those when carnivals are on).

Notice to interested parties:

We have players from all backgrounds, ages and abilities, so if there is anyone out there interested in playing but dismisses the possibility, please call and we are more than happy to assist you with your burning desire to play or support Polocrosse.

Please note that PCAQ (Pony Club Association of Queensland) supports Polocrosse as a discipline, therefore there are now some advantageous options available for those Pony Club members (of any Pony Club) wishing to have a go and get involved with Polocrosse.

Regards, Davina Roberts

PR Officer, Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club

Phone: (07) 4934 1119

And the final Capricornia Zone carnival for the Season...

Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club

is hosting the

Capricornia Zone Polocrosse Championships

On 12 & 13 August 2006

Everyone welcome!!

(Finals held from approx Lunchtime Sunday)

Football on the Big Screen, Bar and Burgers Friday night

Rodeo, Bar and Music on Saturday night

Ridgelands Show News.

On June 3rd we organised and ran another successful Show which was opened by our State Member, Mr Jim Pearce MLA.

The weather was excellent and we received many favourable comments about our new front fence and museum, both of which were funded by the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund.

Our Miss Show Girl, Kirstie Fossett did an excellent job presenting ribbons and helping out generally and we all wish her the best at Mackay in July.

Good luck, Kirstie.

I would like to thank all committee members, volunteers, judges, local committees and residents who put in their time and effort to make the day a success. Without their dedication and help there would be no Show.

Rob Bishop
Chairman.

Our next Show meeting will be on Wednesday 12th July at 7.30p.m. All welcome.

Ridgelands Hall News.

Results of the Ridgelands Hall Committee raffle drawn at the Ridgelands Show.

First Prize: \$100 food hamper from Woody's at Wandal won by Bob Cox, Rockhampton.

Second Prize: \$50 fuel voucher from Choice, Wandal won by M Ivett, Gracemere.

Thank you all for your support.

Rob Chippendale
President.

Guardian Angels.

The Guardian Angel programme is an initiative of Guardian Pharmacies and World Vision. The programme is run from June to August annually and encourages caring Australians to become Guardian Angels knitting children's clothing, to be distributed to disadvantaged kids across the globe. This year we are concentrating on the theory of quality rather than quantity and all the garments must be from the Guardian Angel pattern books. Pattern books are available from the first week of June from Shepherds Guardian Pharmacy in the K-Mart Plaza, North Rockhampton.

If you would like to know more about our Guardian Angel campaign, or would like to pick up a FREE pattern book, please call into the pharmacy any time.

Ena Sinclair, a local resident and member of the newsletter committee has been knitting for the Guardian Angel programme for three years and has completed approximately 300 garments. Ena is happy to talk about her experience and can be contacted on 49341416.

WHAT'S ON

Rhee Tae Kwon Do

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

ALBUM MAKING CLASS

Learn how to create personalised
photo albums – no creativity
required. Classes held in your
home, at a time that suits you.
One on one or with a group.
\$5 per person includes all
materials. Bookings essential.
Phone: 49345958

ALBUM MAKING WORKSHOP

Learn techniques to create
personalised photo albums
Please contact Margo Eistreich,
Creative Memories Consultant
Phone: 49345958 or 0407345955

Brothers Australian Football Club

Teams from Auskick (age 5 &
up) through to U/17 grades
Training at Victoria Park,
Rockhampton
Tuesday & Thursday 5pm
Contact Barry Morrison
49341993 or 0408055047

State of Origin

At Alton Downs PSC
5th July
Bar and hot food.
Game starts 7.30pm
With a slave for the night
2 VIP seats up for auction.

Do you read every word
in this newsletter, finding
typing mistakes
and checking grammar?
If so, "Around the Ridges"
needs you!
Please get in touch if you
would like to help with the
publication of our
community newsletter
Phone 49341132

NOTICES

Wanted

Cleaning Lady
Phone: 4934 1371 a/h

Learning Network Centres

at Capricorn Coast and
Rockhampton. Assisting
parents, adults, students and
community members to update
your skills, track down a new
career, computer skills, resume
writing, etc. Phone now and
speak to Monika on 49309308 or
Leonie on 49309044.

Jewellery Party

Fifth Avenue Collection
Fundraising for the Country Fair.
Tuesday 18th July at 7p.m
in the Pre-School room.

MEETINGS

Ridgelands Show Meeting

12. 07. 2006, 7.30pm
Visitors welcome

QCWA

Ridgelands Branch meets
9.30 am 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

ENGINE CENTRE ROCKHAMPTON

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- ALL ENGINE,
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DIFFERENTIAL
MODIFICATIONS
- SERVICING ALL CARS
INCLUDING CLASSICS
AND HOTRODS

22 SHEEHAN ROAD
ALTON DOWNS 4702



DANNY McNAMARA
Ph. 4934 1473
0438 341 473

LANDCARE

COMPETITION 2006

Pre-School

1. Keallan Thompson
2. Jacob Simpson
3. Cassidy Whitehead &
Xanthe Danes

Year 1

1. Kel Booth
2. Hayden Lovell
3. Ben Reid

Year 2.

1. Jayden Bean
2. Emma – Lee May
3. Sophie Stanke &
Neve Tomkins

Year 3.

1. Henry Balmain
2. MacKenzie Weier
3. Laura McQuillan

Year 4.

1. Sarah Barlow
2. Cassidy – Anne O'Halloran
3. Teghan Hunt

Year 5.

1. Lachlan Hunt
2. Matthew Stanke
3. Curtis Duff

Year 6.

1. Brodie Christensen
2. Hannah Barlow
3. Jessie O'Sullivan

Year 7.

1. Keiran Hunt
2. Luke Ruddick
3. Emma Stanke