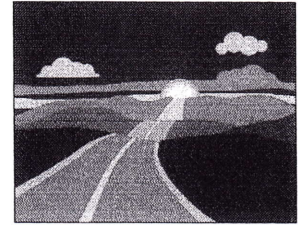


# Around the ridges and a bit beyond



Issue 38 November 2006

A community and school newsletter.

Phone: 49341132

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Please Note: Cut off date for contributions 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

## **The Canning Stock Route and "us" 10 June – 29 June 2006.**

Tuned to channel 16, our nineteen strong convoy pulled out of the Prospector Caravan Park, Kalgoorlie at 8.40am. Lots of happy faces, rearing to go. Jeff waited at the Exchange Hotel for a photo shoot with the convoys' headlights blazing.

50 kilometers out a radio check revealed we'd lost one vehicle. Oops!!!! By Menzies township we were all together again for a cuppa and a queue for the lou. Paul checked us out of Menzies, we were in order now – some of us couldn't count before. All vehicles were numbered prior to departure. Paul checked with Katie that she knew where the accelerator and clutch were. Macca held his facts for the day, followed by the collective noun for the day. That night we camped by a windmill.

Monday we turned onto The Canning Stock Route. Two wheel tracks for 1900 kilometers, no fuel or supplies. A concrete tank at Well 2 bore the words, "Jesus is coming". Someone had painted a reply, "So look busy! ☺". The country was rocky, sandy – with corrugations, there were claypans and even a detour around a lake. The track took us through Snell Pass in the Frere Range. At Well 6, Pierre Spring, we had good water, river red gums, acacias and plenty of company. The temp came down to -4.2 and froze solid the ¾ filled water bucket. The Ingebong Hills, 669 metres above sea level, were a nice day trip with 360 degree views and not a soul in sight (just the odd kangaroo). Lovely ferns, cypress pines, rock paintings and anthropomorphic figures. After checking for any oil leaks, cleaning air filters, checking wheel nuts, doing our washing and letting tyres down we headed off through Glen-Ayle Station. Kangaroo and camel culling is supplying a pet meat market. Trapping, aerial and land baiting are used to keep the wild dogs under control. In 1978 motor bikes and radios took over from the horses mustering the brahman, shorthorn cross cattle. Well 8 was constructed with mulga timber.

At Well 11 we dropped the tyre pressures again and engaged centre diff lock for the remainder of the Canning. Some honey grevilleas were in flower. We were coming into desert oak country which was the preferred timber used by Canning in the wells. Permits could not be obtained for us to visit the Calvert Range so we camped below Canning's Cairn built in 1906, in the Durba Hills. Before nightfall we climbed the rocky hill to admire the view and add another rock to the Cairn.

Durba Springs, a paradise! Lovely soft green grass, red river gums, date palms, an environmentally friendly lou, plenty of water and again lots of company. In another gorge just "around the corner" we found clear running water and happily carried our water containers up there to fill – it was very good water. Two wonderful days at Durba Springs walking, socializing and holding The Canning Clip Club where many lost their locks for the Royal Flying Doctor Service raising around \$2500. A little sadness.....we were halfway and it was going TOO quickly.

## **This newsletter is sponsored by:**

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**Alton Downs residents, Tony & Janette Hodgon have recently opened A1 Exhausts and Mechanical Rockhampton on the corner of William and Denison Streets, taking the place of Old Car Line Mufflers.**

**The service they provide covers exhausts, brakes, shocks, servicing, suspension, mechanical, 4x4 accessories, radiators, tow bars, and Super Charge Batteries. They supply and fit exhaust systems to any vehicles - cars, trucks, tractors and four-wheel drives, including sports systems.**

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*Con't from front page*

Our next camp was a stark contrast – Lake Disappointment. A huge salt lake. We caught up with travellers whom we'd met at Pierre Spring. They had concerns about their fuel, so after checking with the leader, Katie and I said they could take some of ours. They would reach the dump before us. Camels visited our camp during the night on many occasions but at Lake Disappointment they wandered along the lake edge at 7am. Just a great sight. On our first night Katie and I put up the annex to prove that it would work but after that we slept under the stars – Katie on the canopy and me on the stretcher. The night skies were spectacular, bright and very alive. John called on the sat phone ... all was well at home.

Fuelling up was interesting..... 19 vehicles, one hand pump, and lots of 44s (200 litre drums) just dumped in the desert. First find the one with your name. Chris, Tina and Russell had left us a message to say they had got 80litres but we pulled in just as they finished, so they waved us in and between syphon hoses, jerry cans and labour we were fuelled in no time. Back to Georgia Bore for the night. The bore was restored with good water. The next night we were camped near Thring Rock and rose early to walk to the rock for the sunrise. The country is ever changing – we drove through bloodwood woodland, rocky flats, red desert, spinifex, spinifex and spinifex. The corrugations went from bad to worse. Just about shook the teeth out of our head! We duct taped everything we could. Three vehicles had trouble with their shocks as we limped into Kunawarrtji Community. The Community allowed us to camp on their football field where the youngest of our group, Jacob, had a game with the aboriginal children who were supposed to be in school! We enjoyed their hospitality, bought only a little fuel, some supplies, lots of souvenirs, enjoyed a shower, replaced the shockies and listened to the Elders. This was a great experience.

We are still enjoying the big sand dunes. Barry lost his exhaust system and his is the recovery vehicle!! A few more flat tyres. At Well 46 we shared the water with three mulga snakes.

The Breadon Hills were in the distance. As we approached the gullies lead us to water and soft green grass. A walk across the escarpment to Goodfrey's Tank had me wondering how they ever watered cattle there. We drove through forests of holly grevillea and onto Lake Gregory where broilgas, pelicans, cormorants and many other birds used the lake. By the second last day we were driving between the dunes not over them..... they were now further apart. We have crossed nearly 900 sand dunes! At Bililuna Community we called home.... Anna and Mitch were having a great time driving an old holden ute and the dozer at Nana and Granddad's and John was holding the fort at home. The Bililuna aboriginals supplemented their diet with bush potato, roo, bush turkey and emu meat. There are 300-400 people living here. We bought a little fuel and some supplies..... mostly icecreams!

Ron pulled off a great opportunity when we were given permission to travel through Kidman's Ruby Plains Property to the old Ruby Queen Gold Mine. Beautiful scenery and lots of interesting gully crossings before we popped out of the hills into Old Hall's Creek right near the cemetery. Strangely, many of the group took off for Hall's Creek....showers, caravan park, motel rooms, washing machines. Three last vehicles congregated at the Old Hall's Creek rest area for our last lunch on the Canning. The Land Rover had made the trip without a fault. It was a great trip.

We could do it all again!

That night the group shared a meal at the restaurant and said our goodbyes.

*The Australian Geographic Society organized this trip for the Centenary of The Canning Stock Route. The stock route is the longest stock route in the world stretching 1700 kilometres from Wiluna in the south to Old Hall's Creek in the north of Western Australia. We travelled over 2100 klms on the route which passes through four deserts: Little Sandy Desert, Gibson, Great Sandy Desert and Tanami. The Western Australian Gov't selected Alfred Canning to survey the route in 1906 because the growing need to take cattle to the southern markets.*

Jenny Reeve

Pearls lie not on the seashore. If thou desirest one thou must dive for it.

*Chinese Proverb*

## Ridgelands School News.

Richard Thomson  
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Environmental Services  
Land Management,  
Development & Planning.  
Ph: 49237542

**Thanks** to all those members of the community who supported our Country Fair at the Alton Downs Polocrosse grounds recently. It was a great day, and a "huge" night. Our thanks and appreciation go to the members of the Alton Downs Sports Club for their help and assistance. A big "Thank you" to Kate and Cameron Perrin-Dunne for the great job they have done on the paths at the front of the school. They look great and should last for a long time.

**Our groundsman** Robert Lund is currently putting in a concrete path as part of the refurbishments required for our certification for "School Age care." After that we will be installing hand rails near the grade 6/7 classroom and hopefully then be able to apply for our licence. Because the "Care" is classed as a new facility, there are a number of new requirements under the building code. However we are continuing to push forward as fast as we can. We would like to start a list of possible/ probable enrolments for the start of 2007. If you would like to access this service in 2007, could you please contact the school with your numbers to be placed on the list. If you know of anyone who may wish to use this service please ask them to contact the school ASAP.

**Congratulations** to Zoe Spencer on her recent successes while representing Ridgelands at the Queensland Inter School Association Inc State Championships at Maryborough during the holidays. Zoe performed exceptionally well winning the *Combine Training*, coming 7<sup>th</sup> in the *Show Jumping* and 4<sup>th</sup> in the *Show Horse* disciplines. The *Combine Training* phase has now been won by Ridgelands' students for three years in a row (Daniel Pye, Holly Jo Pye and Zoe Spencer).

**Students** commenced swimming lessons at the Crescent Lagoon pool this term as part of the school swimming programme. All students from grade 1 to 7 participate.

Inter-school sport also commenced this term for grades 5 to 7, for eight weeks. Students play cricket, softball and T-ball in the Rocky District competition.

**Over the holidays** I received the great news that the school office block and possibly the library building will be painted externally by Christmas. I don't have a start date as yet.

**On the 6<sup>th</sup>** of October Mrs Kathleen Shepherd formally resigned from her position as Administration Officer at Ridgelands School. She has been on leave for the last three years and was replaced while on leave by Mrs Judy Stanke. The school is now going through the Education Queensland "Recruitment and Selection" process to fill the vacancy. Mrs Shepherd was the Admin Officer for seven years prior to taking leave. I would take this opportunity to again thank her for the great job she did while in the position, and for all the help she gave me when I arrived here.

**A big thanks** to the P & C for funding four new computers at a cost of \$3 300. They include two with dual layer DVD burners.

Also in this newsletter is a notice calling for tenderers for the removal of all or part of the two old adventure playgrounds at the school. They are to be replaced by two new ones at an approximate cost of \$50 000 by (hopefully) the end of this year. This has been made possible by a \$78 000 Commonwealth "Investing in Schools" grant awarded to the P & C.

This money will also fund a "solid roof" shade structure over one of the playgrounds.

**We are still** taking Prep enrolments for 2007 as well as other enrolments. If there are any new (or not so new) members of the community who are thinking of enrolling their children at Ridgelands, we would encourage them to contact the school as we are looking at class composition for 2007 over the next few weeks.

Regards, **Mick Byrne**

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## Ridgelands State School invites tenders for:

Tenders are currently being called for the removal of all or parts of the two old adventure playgrounds at the Ridgelands School. Offers should be made in writing to:

The Principal  
Ridgelands State School  
43 Dalma/Ridgelands Road  
RIDGELANDS QLD 4702  
**Marked Private and Confidential**  
Offers close 5:00pm Fri 10 Nov 2006.

## RIDGELANDS SHOW NEWS

The Show experienced another successful year.

Some of our achievements being:

- the opening of the Museum – the only one in the Fitzroy Shire
- a new front fence replacing the old barbed wire fence
- a man gate at the rodeo yards giving easy access to the backyards

We hosted the AGM of the Central Queensland Sub-Chamber in November.

Our Miss Showgirl entrant, Kirstie Fossett came second in Queensland.

We co-sponsored Sid Hoare and Ken Stewart for a meritorious service award for service to the show movement in Central Queensland.

Rob Bishop, Chairman

**Tony Hodgson**  
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## PASSIONFRUIT KISSES

**150g butter, softened**

**1 teaspoon grated lemon rind**

**2½ tablespoons icing mixture**

**1 cup plain flour**

**2 tablespoons cornflour**

**2 tablespoons custard powder**

**Beat butter, rind and icing mixture until light and fluffy. Reduce speed, mix in sifted flours and custard powder.**

**Roll 1½ teaspoons of mixture into balls and place on a greased tray. Press lightly with a fork. Bake at 180°C for 20 minutes or until lightly coloured. Allow to cool. Ice together or separately with passionfruit icing.**

*Thanks to Glenda Jones for this recipe.*

## WHAT'S ON

### Rhee Tae Kwon Do

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

### QCWA Ridgелands

Opening of New Front  
Fence  
by Mr Jim Pearce  
On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
American Tennis  
Tournament 3 pm  
Barbecue.  
The Big excitement will  
be the QCWA Ridgелands  
Family Feud.  
Gold coin donation will be  
appreciated at the gate for  
the evening entertainment.  
All welcome.

### Alton Downs Hall

Old Time Dance  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
To Can Band

### Faraday Fire Brigade AGM and Public meeting

To be held at the  
Ridgелands Community  
Hall at 7.30pm  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.  
New members always  
welcome.

## NOTICES.

21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
Congratulations  
to Kellie Kime  
6<sup>th</sup> October  
Best Wishes!

Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
to Lynette Chippendale  
28<sup>th</sup> October  
Congratulations!

### Jokes

How do you know when a  
vampire has a sore throat?

Why did the monster look  
into the Egyptian tomb?

What happened when one  
witch moved in with another?

What did the hippy say  
when he saw the monster  
dancing?

1. When he walks around a coffin.  
2. He'd lost his mummy.  
3. They became broom mates.  
4. Hey look at that boogey man  
boogey man.

## MEETINGS

### Ridgелands Show

8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006,  
7.30pm  
Bring a plate for supper.  
Visitors welcome

### QCWA

Ridgелands Branch meets  
9.30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of  
month.

### Stitch and Chat Group

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

### Ridgелands P&C Meeting

Next Meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> November  
7.30pm  
Phone: 49345518

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## Dial up Frustration – A letter to the Editor.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to request a notice be placed in your community and school newsletter. I reside in Pink Lily, 6km out of town (Ridgелands Road) and am unable to receive broadband internet services as my location is too far from the exchange line. After speaking with Telstra, I was informed that the national company is only willing to extend the exchange line if they can see a demand for the service in the area. I think it would be fantastic if the community could come together and those wishing to use the service can place a demand for service form through Telstra's web site. I'm sure I cannot be the only one in the area who is sick of using the SLOW dial up connection! The address to log into and register for an ADSL demand register is:

[www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au) then do a search: adsl demand register

or

call Telstra and ask them to register your household: 132200  
(I found it easier to call Telstra!)

Yours Sincerely,  
Sonia Cranston

# Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club



On the 12, 13 August, Alton Downs Polocrosse and Sports Club hosted the Capricornia Zone Polocrosse Championships for 2006 in conjunction with Ikers Rodeo on Saturday night. Alton Downs fielded it's strongest contingent for the season with 3 Senior Teams and a Junior Team.

The teams for the weekend consisted of:

## Alton Downs 1

Ian Stewart  
Paul O'Sullivan  
Mark Jacques  
Alan Vaughan  
Byrce Jackson  
Craig Roberts

## Alton Downs 2

Mick O'Sullivan  
Davina Roberts  
Paul Chippendale  
Casey O'Sullivan  
Rebecca Heinemann  
Reg Booth

## Alton Downs 3

Linda Booth  
Cassandra Booth  
Katie Reeve  
Carolyn Dodds  
Greg Campbell

## Alton Downs Juniors

Jock Purcell  
Lachlan Dodds  
Danica O'Sullivan  
Zara O'Sullivan  
John Booth  
Alex Purcell

## RESULTS FROM THE WEEKEND

### A Grade ~ Australian Country Living

Winners ~ Calliope 1  
Runners Up ~ Bauhinia 1  
Best & Fairest Lady ~ Penny Kelly (Bauhinia)  
Best & Fairest Mens ~ Grant Olsen (Calliope)

### B Grade ~ PJ's Pet Barn

Winners ~ Alton Downs 1  
Runners Up ~ St Lawrence/Nebo 1  
Best & Fairest Lady ~ Norma Pengelly (Calliope)  
Best & Fairest Mens ~ Brett Edminstone (Bauhinia)

### C Grade ~ The Shed Company

Winners ~ Emerald 1  
Runners Up ~ Alton Downs 2  
Best & Fairest Lady ~ Rebecca Heinemann (Alton Downs)  
Best & Fairest Mens ~ Paul Chippendale (Alton Downs)

### Junior Competition ~ Ridley Agri Products

Winners ~ Alton Downs Jnr  
Runners Up ~ St Lawrence Jnr  
Best & Fairest Girl ~ Danica O'Sullivan (Alton Downs)  
Best & Fairest ~ Jock Purcell (Alton Downs)

## THANK YOU

A special thank you must go to all our volunteers who ran the canteen and bar for the weekend. Without these people, it would have been a hungry and sober weekend and we are grateful for the many hours you put in behind the scenes.

Thank you to our commentator Peter Hunt who was never stuck for words and ensured that teams were on time for games and the spectators were keep entertained and up to date with the action on the fields.

Thank you to the volunteers for the perfect presentation of the fields and surrounding areas, we appreciate the hours that were put in to preparation of these.

Thank you to Graham Iker of Iker's Rodeo Promotions for the Rodeo held Saturday night, it is getting bigger and bigger each year and look forward to working with you next year.

A final thank you to everyone who assisted with the smooth running of the carnival, remember every little bit counts.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/OTHER NEWS

### **Alton Downs Junior Player to Represent QLD at the Nationals**

Alton Downs Junior Club member, Jock Purcell and his horse 'Bugsy' are off to Camden NSW to represent Queensland at the Nationals in October 2006. This is Jocks first Nationals debut and we wish him all the best. Go get 'em Jock!!!!

### **Come & Try and Mini Carnival Weekend**

For all those kids (and big kids) out there who would like to 'have a go', we hope to run a practice day and mini carnival sometime in the next couple of months to give you a taste in preparation for next season. Everyone is welcome. Further details will be made available shortly..... watch this space!!

Regards, Davina Roberts, PR Officer, Alton Downs Polocrosse Club (07) 49341119