

Around the ridges and a bit beyond



Issue 42 April, ²⁰⁰⁷~~2006~~

A community and school newsletter.

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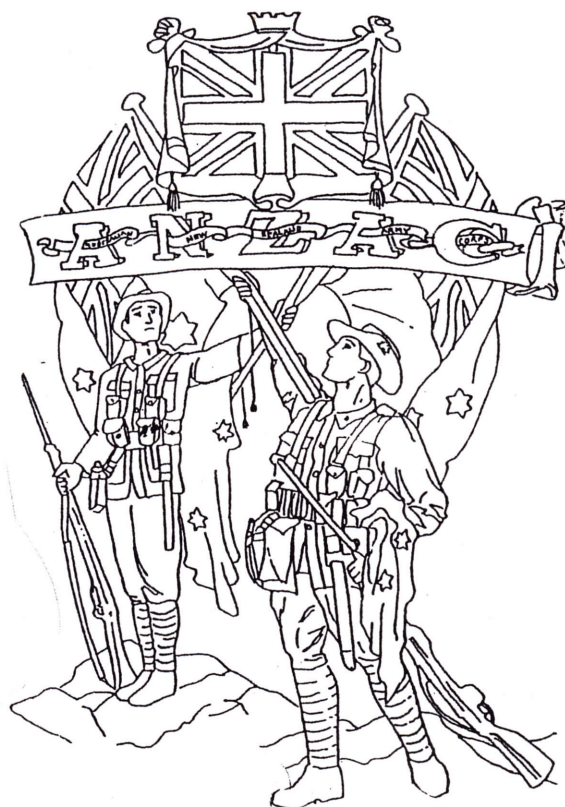
Email: aroundtheridges@eq.edu.au

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

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2007

The Alton Downs and District
Remembrance Committee wishes
to extend an invitation to the
community to join us in observing
ANZAC DAY 2007.

The service will commence
at 4.28 a.m. at the Alton Downs
Cenotaph/Memorial Wall.
A breakfast will be provided for all
attending the service.



THIS NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY AGTEL-LAND SUSTAINABILITY

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FOR THE MAN ON THE LAND**

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Also, on a local level – AGTEL – Land Sustainability sponsors Equestrian Events – Waroula Equestrian Association Incorporated

For further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact AGTEL – Land Sustainability: -

**AGTEL – Land Sustainability
For the Man on the Land**

Postal Address: PO Box 8371, Allenstown ROKHAMPTON QLD 4700

Contact Mobile Number: 0417 190 127

Contact Email Address: minersa@hotmail.com

The following speech was made by Lt Colonel Michael Byrne last Year in Rockhampton on ANZAC Day:

It is my privilege to represent the Australian Defence Force and in particular the Australian Army at this Memorial service to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk.

Between April and September 1941 up to 14,000 Australians, under the command of Lieutenant-General Leslie Morshead were besieged in Tobruk by a German-Italian army commanded by General Erwin Rommel. The Allied garrison, largely Australian, consisted of the 9th Australian Division, (comprising 20, 24 and 26th Australian Infantry Brigades), the 18th Infantry Brigade of the 7th Australian Division and four regiments of British artillery.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy kept the garrison supplied by means of the "Tobruk Ferry" which included the Australian ships *HMAS Stewart, Napier, Nizam, Nestor* and *Vendetta*.

Units of that force that we particularly remember today as our Rockhampton members served in them are the 2/ 15th Australian Infantry Battalion – Howard MacArthur and Brian Chase;

2/3 Field Ambulance – Vern Keily

Area Tpt Coy – Bill Buss; and

HMAS Stewart – Jack Western.

So what of Tobruk and its significance.

Tobruk, a small town on the Libyan coast, was central to much of the fighting that took place in the Western Desert during the Second World War. It had originally been developed by the Italians during their colonisation of eastern Libya during the early decades of the 20th century. With a sheltered deep water harbour it became a key naval outpost.

When British and Commonwealth forces advanced out of Egypt and into Libya in January 1941, Tobruk was their second objective. The Italian defences were attacked by the 6th Australian Division on the morning of 22 January and the town fell the next morning. Subsequently the 6th was withdrawn from Libya to be deployed to Greece.

The 9th Australian Division was moved in to Libya in February 1941 to garrison the territory captured by the 6th. By this time, however, German troops had arrived in Libya to reinforce their Italian allies and they launched an offensive that the British Commonwealth forces were ill-disposed to hold back. A retreat towards Egypt commenced. The 9th Division was ordered to fall back upon Tobruk, hold it in order deny its port facilities to the Germans, and delay their advance so as to provide time for defences on the Egyptian frontier to be prepared. Morshead was told to hold Tobruk for 8 weeks. To this was added, "there is nothing between you and Cairo."

Tobruk and the 9th Division were subsequently encircled, beginning what became known as the "Siege of Tobruk". Reinforced by the 18th Infantry Brigade of the 7th Australian Division and other British and Commonwealth troops, and resupplied by sea, the 9th Division held Tobruk for much longer than the 8 weeks demanded.

Tobruk's strength as a fortress lay in the fact that for an attacker there was no cover around the perimeter as the area is an almost perfectly flat plateau. With the harbour as the heart of the fortress, the defences built to protect it ran in a rough semicircle across the desert from the coast eight miles east of the harbour to the coast again nine miles west of it. The defences had been hewn from the desert and consisted mainly of dozens of strongpoints. These posts were protected by barbed-wire fences and anti-tank ditches. Supplemented by captured Italian weapons the strength of the garrison lay in its fire-power, not its numbers; this and the extensive use of minefields offset to some extent the weakness in infantry.

At this stage of the war the German army had never been stopped. Their blitzkrieg tactics had conquered every army in Europe that they had fought.

Morshead told his commanders; "There will be no Dunkirk here. If we have to get out we will fight our way out. There is to be no surrender and no retreat."

This was the position when the Germans launched their ill-fated attack on April 13th, 1941. Known as the "Easter Battle", the Germans had confidently expected a walk-over. Instead, it ended in their being completely routed.

On the morning of Easter Monday Rommel launched an attack by tanks. The familiar pattern employed by the "Blitzkrieg" expert was to have the tanks break through the defences - a deep armoured thrust - and through the gap would pour the infantry. In Poland, France and Belgium these tactics had never failed. Once the tanks had broken through it had always been the beginning of the end and the rolling up of the defences had been a matter of course. Until Tobruk.

Here the enemy's tanks did not so much break through as they were let through. The Australian infantry lay low until the German infantry appeared in the wake of the tanks. These were engaged by fire with the result the tanks were left to advance without the support they had expected and needed, and the further they advanced the more intense became the fire they encountered. For here was the secret of the defence - a defence in depth. A combined force of artillery and tanks lay waiting for them. They were hit with every calibre weapon capable of damaging them. The fire of the artillery, including the now famous bush artillery, at point-blank range, was particularly devastating.

Then, it happened. For the first time in the war, German tanks retreated. As the enemy armour in retreat poured through the gap they had made in the Australian lines, they came under the fire of Brens, mortars, rifles and shells and terrible confusion resulted.

Thus ended the Afrika Corps' first attempt to capture the garrison. Tobruk was a nut they could not crack and further attempts in April-May had little more success. While Rommel gained a small amount of territory with his far superior forces, the men of the Fortress inflicted such heavy casualties he did not seriously attack Tobruk again in 1941.

The spirit of co-operation, trust and comradeship between the men of the garrison, consisting of two thirds Australian and one third British, was the real strength of Tobruk. No other Middle East front saw understanding between the men of these countries so complete.

Under the inspired leadership of General Morshead the actual defensive task of holding Tobruk was, in reality, held by offensive tactics. The Germans and Italians were constantly counter-attacked, and it was in one of these that the first Australian Victoria cross of the second world war was won by Cpl Jack Edmondson of the 2/17th Battalion.

This then was the pattern of Tobruk. A thorn in the side of the German army, upsetting his plans for an attack on Egypt, and giving the allies time to build up their forces for a counter offensive.

A sign of how much they were affecting the enemy was when they became a target for propaganda from the German propagandist *Lord Haw Haw* (William Joyce) who derided the troops as the "*Rats of Tobruk*". This mis-fired badly as the term was proudly embraced by the troops as an ironic compliment, and continues proudly today in the name of their association..

For over six months Australians had defied and denied Rommel possession of the area, and although almost all were evacuated by sea in October for a "rest", having been relieved by the Polish Carpathian Brigade and other Commonwealth forces, one battalion, the 2/13th remained to fight its way out and join up with the advancing British Eighth Army on the second advance westwards in December.

Tobruk, like Gallipoli, is a name that means much in the war annals of Australian history. A parallel can also be drawn between Tobruk and Milne Bay. At Milne Bay the hitherto invincible Japanese suffered their first defeat. At Tobruk, the all-conquering German forces received their first set-back; in each case at the hands of Australians. The success at Milne Bay may not be so surprising when it is noted that the 18th Australian Infantry Brigade which was part of the defence of Tobruk was also part of the defence of Milne Bay.

The heroic defence of Tobruk is a notable military achievement and a worthy addition to the long list of deeds of valour performed by Australian soldiers and the sailors and airmen who supported them. The toll was heavy. Nine hundred and forty-one were taken prisoner, over three thousand were wounded and eight hundred and thirty-two made the supreme sacrifice.

Lest we forget. Thank you.

SISLEYS
Office Stationery and
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Clinic
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Ph- All Hours: 4928 4266

Bell's Water Supplies
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Mob: 0418 725 676

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Gracemere
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McCracken's Water
Services. Peter Hunt
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Ridgelands School News

At our first P & C meeting for the year a number of key school issues were discussed and approved including the school's Annual Report and Operation Plan and the school budget. The school has a planned expenditure of \$194,400 (excluding GST) for 2007. This is a substantial budget for a small school (by far the biggest ever for this school) and has only been made possible by a number of grants totalling over \$148,000 awarded to the P & C Association. A viable, functioning P & C Association is critical to our ability to fund major projects, such as our "Covered Games Area" and the new playgrounds, for the benefit of our students. Hence I would again urge parents and interested community members to become active members of this important association. Last month I received the great news that the \$70,400 from the 2006 P & C application to the Federal Government's "Investing in Schools" scheme has been deposited in the school account. This means that as well as the shade structure on the new infant playground being started soon, we can also start on the Covered Games structure. Soil tests have been done and the plans for building compliance for both structures sent in. It also means we can start work on the tuckshop and staffroom upgrades. With luck all projects will be completed by the end of term 2. Work is almost completed on the data cabling to the Prep/1/2 classrooms. This should be fully connected by the next newsletter.

Our prospective school captains gave their election speeches to the rest of the school and parents recently. I would like to congratulate all the candidates on their speeches. They were some of the best yet and certainly the best I have heard from our candidates.

Congratulations to Zoe Spencer, Girls' Captain, Jessie O'Sullivan, Girls' Vice-Captain; Steele Keily, Boys' Captain, Ethan Dodds, Boys' Vice-Captain. Elections of student councillors are being held and results will be announced next newsletter.

Friday, March 09 marked 20 years of voluntary Religious Education delivery to students of Ridgelands School by Mrs Margaret Foxwell. We celebrated her dedication and achievement with the presentation by our new school captains, of a Redback Certificate; and Mr Ian Boon, the Executive Director Schools, Central Queensland District thanked her on behalf of Education Queensland and the school community for her extraordinary effort, with the presentation of a bouquet of flowers.

Students from prep to grade seven are looking forward to visiting the Dreamtime Cultural Centre as part of their studies on Wednesday 21 March.

Remember to bookmark Saturday evening on 31 March for the P & C fundraising dinner to be held at the Brunswick hotel.

Regards, Mick Byrne.

ROSEWOOD DIGGINGS CEMETERY

A Family Gathering took place on St Patrick's Day, March 17th, at the site of the Rosewood Diggings Cemetery, Morinish. Descendants of Sarah Jane Stewart Yin: Brendan Connor, Jeanette Toohey, Wayne Spalding (and Wayne's friend Charlie Broughton), Pat Connor, Terry Connor and Marilyn Dooley organised activities at the grave sites in co-operation with Mr Jeff Edgar and Mrs Linda Edgar on whose property the site is located.

A traditional bush fence of ironbark posts and rosewood rails cut locally and a memorial gate made for *The Rosewood Diggings Cemetery* now mark the site. More history in the next issue.

Richard Thomson
Property & Livestock
Ph: 4927 1308
Mob: 0438 345 928

Laurie's Auto Electrics
55 Archer Street
Rockhampton
Ph: 4922 1195
Mob: 0407 756 046

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Power For Anything
61 Musgrave Street
Ph: 131760/ 49229022

Norm Milner Butcher
190 Campbell Street
Rockhampton
Ph: 4927 6616

Neil Watkins
Solid Timber Furniture
Repairs & Restorations
Ph: 4934 1243

W.R. Jones D6D Dozer Hire
Ph: 49345 596
Mob: 0407 231 427

Greg Thompson
Excavator Hire with Bobcat
& Truck
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Mob: 0407 156 662

Geoff Estreich
Bobcat & Truck Hire
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*Happy 90th Birthday
Alice Boys
8th April 1917
Birthday wishes from
family and friends*

*The easiest way to find something lost around the house
is to buy a replacement.*

*The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can
tell when he's really in trouble.*

QCWA NEWS

The Alzheimers Talk on 7th March was a great talk and there were lots of pamphlets for more reading and to refresh people's recall of the talk. It was a great opportunity for the ladies who have family suffering from this disease to speak up as they also need guidance on living with alzheimers.

On September 1st the Ridgelands Branch of the QCWA is celebrating 70 years of CWA at Ridgelands. Past family members and friends are cordially invited to join in the daytime celebrations to be held in the Ridgelands Hall. Please contact Merle 49345142 or Mary 49222745 for catering purposes.

Please see the What's On column for details on the QCWA Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, Saturday May 5th.

KINDY COOKIES

125g unsalted butter
¾ cup caster sugar
1 egg lightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¾ cup smooth peanut butter
1½ cups self-raising flour
½ cup milk choc bits
extra 2½ tablespoons caster sugar
Beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
Beat in egg and vanilla, add peanut butter and
beat until smooth. Stir in sifted flour until combined.
Roll 1 rounded tablespoon of dough into a ball and
place on a baking paper-lined oven tray, continue with
remaining dough.
Press each ball with the bottom of a glass to form a circle.
Make smiley faces using choc-bits pressed point down in
each circle. Sprinkle each face with ½ teaspoon of sugar.
Bake in a moderate oven 180°C for about 20 minutes or
until nice and golden.

If a man digs a pit,
he will fall into it;
If a man rolls a
stone, it will roll
back on him.
Proverbs 26:27

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Wedding Congratulations to Craig and Belinda Ellrott.

Belinda Coombs, daughter of Carole and the late Trevor Coombs married Craig Ellrott, son of Carol and John Ellrott "Big House" on the 10th March, 2007.

Belinda was attended by Leann Dalton, Carmel Lindley and Emma Johnson.

Craig's support came from Trevor Frankish, Dale Perry and Gerard Ellrott.

Friends and family wish Craig and Belinda a long and happy life together.

FOUND

17th February found an item of Furniture containing 'Children Books' in Canning Street.

Owner can identify

Please contact 0418 771 903

Welding & Labour Hire

Please Phone
0429 191 359

A/Hrs 4934

1636

Clint Jennings

Jokes

Why are Saturday and Sunday so strong?

Where does a whale sleep?

Why is it easy to weigh fish?

What has a hundred legs but can't walk?

Because the rest are week days.
On the sea bed.
Because they come with scales.
Fifty pairs of pants.

THE WEEK-END OF A LIFETIME

A few weeks ago I entered a competition called the ANZ Talent Pool with Giann Rooney. It was to promote the FINA World Championships. On Wednesday 21st February a lady from the Sunday Mail rang to tell me I had won a place along with 59 other children.

On Saturday 24th February at 4.45pm I boarded an aeroplane to Brisbane. On Sunday morning at 8.30am I went to the Chandler Aquatic Centre. While we waited for all the children to arrive we did some stretches, then off my group went to synchronised swimming. After we had had 30 minutes at synchronised swimming we proceeded to swimming where we were coached by Stephanie Rice and Josh Santacaterina. When we finished at swimming we changed to water polo which I found really tricky. The last thing we did was diving which was really fun. When we signed out we were given an ANZ bag, goggles, cap and poster signed by all the athletes. I had a lot of fun in the pool.

Hannah Foxwell.

This is the entry Hannah sent in. She had to write in 25 words or less why she would like to win a chance to attend the ANZ Talent Pool.

"I've always loved swimming. This would be an enjoyable opportunity to improve my swimming skills tremendously and live a dream of swimming with Olympic athletes."

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.

Details: \$5 per person
includes all materials,
bookings essential.

Album Making Workshop

Learn the techniques to
create personalised photo
albums.

Workshop Dates:

I am holding a workshop
every 1st and 3rd Tuesday
of the month at the
Brothers Club, Lion Creek
Road, Rockhampton from
9 am – 3pm . Plenty of
room to spread out and
complete your albums.
Meals available. Booking
essential.

13th April Friday night 6 -
11 pm Brothers Club –
Gilbert Room \$10

19th May Saturday 9.am –
5pm (Memoranza)
Brothers Club.

If you would prefer to
work alone or from home
please call me and I will
help you out.

If you are interested in
coming to workshops at
Ridgeland or Dalma
please let me know.

Contact Margo Estreich

Creative Memories

Consultant

Ph: 4934 5958

or 0407 345955

Alton Downs Hall

Committee

Cent Sale 21st April

Dance 23rd June

'Man in Black'

Dance 25th August

'Two Can'

Dance 27th October

'Man in Black'

Dance 24th November

'Two Can'

NOTICES.

Wanted

Ridgeland Show

is seeking a caterer on
Show day, 2nd June 2007.
Phone: 4934 5135

Ridgeland Show

All entries received on
Friday 1st June will go
into the draw for a \$25
prize.

For sale

Polaris magnum 330 4x4
ATV
2004 model
Goes well
\$4,500
Phone 4934 7621

Date Claimer

25th May 2007

Australia's Biggest

Morning Tea

342 Nicholson Road

Alton Downs

9 am – 11.30 am

For Qld Cancer Fund.

For Sale

Nathan Double Horse

Float

Fully padded.

5 new tyres, RWC,

extended front

\$6,000 ONO.

Phone: 4934 1451 or

Mobile 0409002754

Date Claimer

CWA 70th Anniversary
this year.

Keep 1st Sept free. Details
to follow.

MEETINGS

Ridgeland Show

11th April, 2007.

7.30pm

QCWA

Ridgeland 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

Fitzroy Northern

Area Ratepayers

Association

Meeting to be held at
the Alton Downs Hall
on Tuesday April 3rd at
7.30pm.

Guest speaker Mayor
Margaret Strelow

Topic: Findings of Qld

Treasury Corporation

Review on financial

health of RCC and

what it may mean for

surrounding Shires in

relation to regional co-

operation and shire

boundaries.

Every one welcome.

Phone 49 34 5115.

Congratulations

Steele Keily has been selected to
attend the BMX Trials in New
South Wales for selection in the
Australian BMX Test Team to race
against the New Zealand BMX
Test Team for Trans Tasman
Trophy.

QCWA Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Saturday May 5. Commencing 1.30pm.

Raffle, Lucky Door, Multi Draws, Oldest and Youngest Mother's prizes.

Admission \$7.

Bookings: Merle 49345142 or Mary 49222745



Alton Downs

Polocrosse

We're starting the season off at a gallop! So pull out the saddle, bring the horse back in and pump up the tyres on the trailers, its Polocrosse time again!

2007 Polocrosse Delegates

| Position | Name |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Alex Reid |
| Secretary | Davina Roberts |
| PR Officer | Davina Roberts |
| Horse Welfare Officer | Craig Roberts |
| Horse Welfare Officer | Casey O'Sullivan |
| Selector | Alex Reid |
| Selector | Craig Roberts |
| Selector | Paul O'Sullivan |

Upcoming Events

- Beginners Introductory to Polocrosse day on Sunday 18 March commencing at 9am. This day is open to beginners of all ages and levels that would like to have a go and receive some coaching in Polocrosse. No polocrosse experience is necessary and spare Polocrosse racquets will be available on the day. A free sausage sizzle will be provided for lunch and softdrinks will be available for purchase on the day.
- Also for those that have attended one of our beginner days, we have a Gordon McKinlay Horsemanship Clinic coming up on 31 March and 1st April.
- Then it is full swing into practices every Sunday from 8weekend in April commencing at 9am sharp.
- Our first carnival for the year is at Capella on the weekend of 19th and 20th of May, followed closely by Eidsvold carnival the following weekend on 26th and 27th of May.

REMINDER ~ Nominations for the 2007 QLD Zone Titles DUE 14 May 2007

Visit us online at www.ozhorses.com.au listed under the *Online Service Directory*. This page will continue to be updated weekly throughout the Polocrosse season so if you are wanting to stay up to date the activities and results from our club please look us up.

If anyone would like further information please contact me on the below details.

Kind regards

Davina Roberts
 Polocrosse Secretary
 Phone: (07) 4934 1119