



Around the ridges and a bit beyond

Issue Number 69 *SEPTEMBER 2009* A community and school newsletter.

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

Paronella Park

After a recent visit to Paronella Park I thought I would like to share my experience with our readers. For those of you who have been there, my story will be somewhat familiar, for those who haven't I hope you will find the history as interesting as I did.

Paronella Park is situated about 20 K south of Innisfail, on the old Bruce Highway. It is a tourist attraction, the dream of a Spaniard named Jose' Paronella. He arrived in Sydney in 1913 at the age of 26. Jose made his way to North Queensland to seek work. He tried his hand at mining around Cloncurry but found the climate overwhelming and the conditions appalling. He decided to move to the lush tropical coast where he worked in the cane fields, all the time dreaming of owning his own land. For the next eight years Jose' worked hard buying scrub land, clearing the rain forest and establishing cane fields. He would sell the farms for a sound profit. He also made good money from the purchase of a tin mining lease in the Mt Garnet area. In 1921, he became an Australian Citizen. He was then 34 years old and quite a wealthy man. Three years later he returned to his native land Spain. He married Margarita in 1925 and after a lengthy honeymoon returned to Australia with her. All the while he kept his dream alive - one day he would build a Spanish castle and Pleasure Grounds for people to visit and enjoy. After much searching he purchased 12 acres of land on Mena Creek, South Johnstone, on which to build his dream. He was fascinated by the beautiful waterfall. First of all he would build a cottage for his family on the top of the cliff. This meant steps had to be cut into the cliff face to bring sand up from the creek bed and later the cement would be taken down the steps to the other buildings below. These 47 steps became known as "The Grand Staircase". All the buildings were to be made of concrete, reinforced with discarded rail lines from the cane fields. Over the years this proved to be unsatisfactory as the porous nature of the concrete allowed the steel to rust and caused the buildings to crumble... With the help of employed labourers Jose' started putting his plans in place. He built a castle, refreshment rooms, changing cubicles for the bathers and pavilions for other uses. A small stream meandered through the Park with a waterfall. Jose' named the creek and waterfall after his daughter, Teresa. Along the pathways foot bridges were built over the stream. A wishing well complete with fountain was put at the entrance and other fountains appeared throughout the Park. Picnic tables were set up on the bank of Mena Cr with a view of the falls. The Spanish design continued with balustrades predominant. Paronella Park was opened to the public in 1935. Margarita had worked tirelessly in the gardens planting ferns and flowering plants under the canopy of the rainforest. The tourist industry in Nth Queensland was in its infancy and the Park struggled financially. Money coming from Jose' tin mining business was put to running the park. Devastation struck the Park with the flood of 1946. Loggers had been working upstream on Mena Creek and a large number of logs washed down causing flooding and severe destruction to the building and gardens. Jose' Paronella's dream of a Spanish Castle and Pleasure Ground has been turned into a scene of absolute chaos. It was closed for 6 months while restoration was completed. About this time Jose' began to suffer ill health. He died in August 1948 after battling cancer for 2.5 years leaving Margarita, Teresa and son Joe. Family members continued his dream until the Park was sold in 1977. In 1979 devastation again struck when fire swept through the Castle leaving only the walls and turret.

Dressmaker, Sewing
Lessons, Embroidery
Gloria Bills 49341125
0438 341 125

Auctioneer – **Richard
Thomson**. Property &
Livestock 49271308
0438 345 928

Laurie's Auto Electrics
+ auto air conditioning
55 Archer St. 49221195
0407 756 046

Battery World – Power
for anything... anytime.
61 Musgrave St.
131760 49229022

Norm Milner Butcher
Quality Meats, Hams
190 Campbell St
49276616

N. Watkins - Cabinetry,
Joinery, Timber
Merchant . 49341243
0428 132 697

**Alton Downs
Polocrosse & Sports
Club** Bar Friday 6pm
Tennis Courts available
49341124, 49341396

Geoff Estreich –
Bobcat & Truck Hire
Post digger, Trencher
0418 799 890

Maddo's Machinery Hire
Excavator, Bobcat, Truck
49341240
0427 284 391

Greg Thompson –
Bobcat, Excavator &
Truck Hire 49345587
0407 156 662

Full advertising
details available in
**Community
Business
Directory**. 49341132

Engine Centre - 22
Sheehan Rd. **Danny
McNamara** 49341473
0438 341 473

Cliff Munro
Mechanical
49 224 882
204-206 William St.

The Castle is still closed to the public. In 1986 Cyclone Winifred tested the Park's endurance once again. In 1993 Mark and Judy Evans (owners) envisaged reviving Jose' dream. They worked hard at clearing debris, repairing buildings and restoring the gardens. Cyclone Larry in 2006 added another chapter of endurance but the Evans family are determined to continue Jose' Paronella's dream. When I visited I was in awe of the visual beauty of the place. I marvelled at the integrity of the "Spanish Dreamer" of all those years ago and appreciated the enormous task he had set himself and the arduous work it took to fulfil that dream.

(Name withheld by request)

RECIPE CORNER

Cheese and Bacon Puffs

2 cups grated cheese
1 cup self raising flour, sifted
3 rashers bacon, finely chopped
½ red capsicum, finely chopped, optional
1 onion, finely chopped
½ cup milk
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Preheat oven to moderate.

Line 2 trays with oven paper. Combine cheese, flour, bacon, capsicum and onion in a bowl.

In a jug, whisk together milk, egg and mustard. Season to taste.

Add milk mixture to dry ingredients, mix well.

Drop teaspoons of mixture onto trays.

Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden.

Serve warm.

Having a backbone is
admirable but don't forget
your neck sticks out one end

Gardening Tips.

Camomile Tea is a very mild fungicide. Use it for damping off, brown rot on fruit, early mildews and fungal problems. Cover a handful of flowers in boiling water, or use a teabag according to instructions on the packet. Spray when cool.

*You do not get a second chance
to make a first impression.*

Ridgelands School News

Last month has seen many busy happenings at Ridgelands SS. Planning is almost complete for the Ridgelands State **School Fair on the 22nd August**. A wide variety of stalls and activities will again be on offer this year. We hope members of the Ridgelands community come and share in the great things happening at the school. The "**Book Fair**" was held last week, with the school library being transformed into an Amazon-like jungle. Students and parents browsed the wide variety of reading material for purchase and in total purchased over \$1,000. Thank you to Mrs Pierce and Mrs Hunt for the marvellous effort they put into organising this event. If parents in the community have children preparing for Prep next year, please be sure to contact the school on 49 345518 as we are accepting enrolments for 2010 now. If you would like to arrange a tour of the school, chat with myself or the teaching staff. Please call the school anytime between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm Mon-Fri. Finally while no timelines have been set in concrete we are anticipating the start of our Resource centre and school facilities upgrade to commence before the end of the term. Both of these projects will require some disruption to the school and possibly the local community as building materials are brought to the site. Once construction has started, be sure to check our school website www.ridgelands.eq.edu.au for a visual diary of the construction.

Rockhampton Regional Library

Will you be travelling long distances over the school holidays? Do you enjoy working in the garden, the shed- or home? Many people have discovered new authors and books via audiobooks, which are a great way to listen and learn while you travel, work or relax. Council's Libraries stock a huge range of audiobooks for all ages and interests- in cassette, CD or mp3 format. Contact your local library today for more information.

*Rockhampton Regional Library, 230 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton. Telephone 49368265
Rockhampton North Library, 154 Berserker Street, North Rockhampton. Telephone 49285800.*

WHAT'S ON

Indoor Bowls

held 1st Saturday of every month at Alton Downs Hall all welcome.

Alton Downs Hall Committee

Sid Hoare is the booking officer for Community Hall. 49341147.

T Hoare Ph 4934 1493
J Chippendale 4934 5120

Alton Downs Hall Dances

31st October, 2009
Commencing at 7.30pm
Music by Man in Black
Phone Joyce 4934 5120
Tom 4934 1493

NOTICES

Alton Downs Polocrosse & Sports Club
BAR OPEN
Friday Nights

For Hire.

Chairs for hire for functions. Contact the Ridglands State School P&C.
Phone: 49345518.

Alton Downs Fire Brigade.

Emergency Number is 000.

Fire permits must be applied for **48 hours** prior to burning off.

For permit contact your fire warden.

The Birthday Book September Birthdays

Jack Bush
Leonie Thompson - 5th

Belated Birthday Frank Dawson

QCWA

Ridglands Branch
Invites you to an information session on Alzheimers.
Wednesday 3rd September
12 noon to 1pm
Light refreshments will be available.
Donations accepted but not required.
PH: 0749 345157

Wedding Congratulations

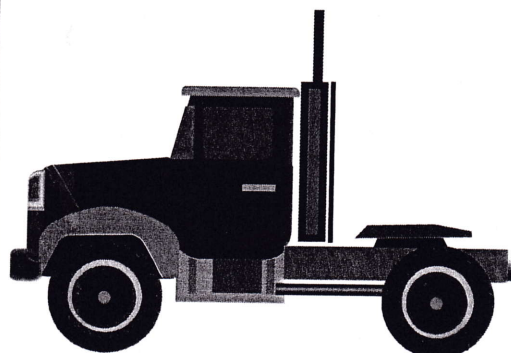
29th August
Kathy Bishop & Nathan Crossland

Engine Centre Rockhampton

Danny McNamara
Ph: 4934 1473
Mob: 0438 341 473

22 Sheehan Rd
Alton Downs

Servicing all Cars, 4wd, Trucks and Tractors



MEETINGS

QCWA

Ridglands 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

AGM Show Meeting

Wednesday,
9th September, 2009
7.30pm

Jokes

What is higher when it's upside down?

The figure 6.

What kind of dog can jump higher than a building?

Any dog. Buildings can't jump.

Why is O the loudest vowel?

All the others are in audible.

Word for the Month

Bibulous – addicted to

Drinking alcoholic liquor

RODEO

**ALTON DOWNS
Polocrosse Grounds**

SAT 19th SEPTEMBER

Gates open Noon
Slack starts 3pm
Main at 6pm

BAR and FOOD

Enquires 4934 1124

CLEARING SALE

10:00 AM SATURDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 2009.

ON SITE

"Hern Hill", South Yaamba Road, Ridgeland .

(signs from Rockhampton Ridgeland Road 29kms from Rockhampton.)

Property sold after over 60 years of family ownership.

Tractors, Vehicles MF 2640 FWA with ROPS Cab, TPL, PTO. MF 294 FWA, Canopy, FEL Bucket & Blade, PTO & TPL. MF 65 Mk 2 with 207 -5 FEL, Backhoe attachment and Bale Spear. Dodge D500N Truck 16' tray, with crate. 318 V8. Kawasaki 400 Auto 2WD Quad. Kawasaki KLF 300 2WD quad.

Implements: Heston 1120 Mower conditioner, 9' cut. MF 12 Square Baler. Vicon RP1200 Round Baler – variable chamber 3' to 5'. IH TPL Rollerbar hay rake. MF 26 run Combine with covering harrows. Yoemans Plough 7 tyne US frame with 5 x 18" tynes. 5 Yoeman disc coulters. IH 4 disc mouldboard plough. onnor Shea – Napier 24 plate wheeled offsets, Hydraulic lift. MF Mod.67 Disc Plough. 16 disc. Hydraulics. Chamberlain 21tyne scarifier. 9' TPL Scarifier. TPL Round bale loader. Superior PH Digger with 13" auger. 6' Page Slasher (as is). Silvan Boom spray 24' with hose reel. Jetstream TPL Back blade. 12' harrows. 12' rubber tyred roller. Vicon TPL Fertiliser spreader. TPL Carry all.

Sundries: Trailing crane TPL Winch PTO drive (Gar Woods Winch from Blitz truck). Farm tipping trailer. 14' tandem axle. Steel bottom grain bin (fits Trailer).

Twin Box precision seeder. Transpec trailer turntable. Drawn Land plane

Belt drive Saw bench. Southern Cross No.2 Boring Rig with 4 bits. 2 X O/head fuel tanks. On ground fuel tank. 11/2" Helical rotor pump. Lincoln Welder Linc Weld 225 with Lombardini motor . Burket (Mod: 140) 30 – 140 amp welder. Quad Spray tank

8' Southern Cross Windmill. Tray back crate. 25KVA power plant. Ford Motor

254 Cu In Balanced. Attached to Dunlite Alternator. Air Compressor (Electric)

Southern Cross Mod. 75 Irrigator (as is). Southern Cross pump jack. Qty. Hay (Round Bales feed and Mulch). Qty wooden posts. Concrete & Poly cattle troughs. D RX75 ride on mower. Victa 834E ride on mower. Round bale feeder. Small hay feeder. Other tools, and sundries too numerous to list.

Grain Handling: Fibre glass Silo. Silo aerator. 2/3 tonne silo on stand. Qty helicoil auger system. 4" x 15' pencil auger. 37' x 7" PTO Drive auger.

Antique: McCormack IH AW6 tractor.(going) Chaff cutter. Bentall three blade 23CS H83 (three speed with reverse) Old ploughs.

Dairy: Ice Bank – Single phase 5 HP motor. Massport Vacuum pump with 5 HP motor. Double ended diaphragm milk pump. Plate Cooler - Milka ware. Code 1 1 / 600/41 Size 8109 / 94 . Plate Cooler - Exacta M / 350 / 25 Type 6510 / 87. Qty Stainless steel pipe. Bail feeders and auger system.

Other Vendors: Ford 8600 Tractor with blade, TPL and PTO. Chamberlain Tractor for parts. Chamberlain 4080 tractor with FEL & bucket (90 hp) Good Cond. 2000 Case 1840 skid steer bob cat with 4 in 1 bucket. Hydropower Chain digger attachment.

Bid Card system. Identification required. Catering on site.

Phone for more detail. **Richard. 49271308.**

Web: thomsonsales.com