

Around the Ridges

and a bit beyond



Issue / 2011 ~~APRIL~~ **March** Email aroundtheridges@hotmail.com

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Around the Ridges and a bit beyond is a community and school newsletter.

The newsletter is produced monthly, and is funded through sponsorship and advertising.

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please send all material in by the 15th of every month.

Advertising for special events must be submitted two months in advance.

PLEASE TELL US YOUR STORIES!

We want to hear them!!!! Please send your story, as you are a valued part of our community and this newsletter.

Peter Hunt has turned 50!

Peter Hunt celebrated his 50th Birthday at the Alton Downs Polocrosse and Sports Club in the evening of Saturday 10th March. He sent out invitations and on the back he had a poem which amused many. A large crowd attended the evening which was catered for by Carol and Craig Reid, Tara and others from the Polocrosse Club who cooked and served steaks, sausages, potato bake and salads. We all enjoyed the bbq meal along with the delicious sweets and nibbles. The Bar was well supported with a few sore heads the next morning. Peter thoroughly enjoyed himself.

Everyone was entertained by local musician Kevin Rosenberg and his band. The music entertained even the smallest guests who danced in front of the band until they were tuckered out around 11pm.

This date was also a celebration of 30 years of marriage for Peter and Sharon. (At least Peter could never forget his wedding anniversary). The party continued into the early hours. Happy Birthday Peter and congratulation to Sharon on her endurance!

Council Calling for Community Flood Recovery.

Be aware the Mem Farahmand will be calling on some local people to discuss local issues and social matters arising from the last flood. If you can spare the time to speak with him he would greatly appreciate it. He is not selling anything despite his Indian accent!

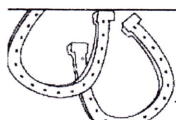
Raffles

Raffles will be held at the Alton Downs Hall and the Ridgelands School on 24th March voting Day. These raffles are being held to raise *much needed funds* to enable us to continue to distribute our monthly newsletter. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

EASTER Greetings

EASTER Greetings from the 'Around the Ridges and a Bit Beyond' News Team.

Drive carefully and return safely from any trips you may take.





Auctioneer

Richard Thomson
Ph 49 271308 or
0438345928

Pet Shop Supplies

Pets
PJ's Pet Barn
Nth Rockhampton
Ph 49 280299

Think Water

Rockhampton
Peter Hunt
Ph 49 27 5700

Veterinary

Capricorn Vet Surgery
Rockhampton
Ph 49 273688

Tanks

SW Kele— Precast
concrete grids etc.
Ph 49 274505

Celebrant

Marriage and Civil
Jill C Fry, JP Qual
Ph 49 341444

Earth Moving

Truck, Bobcat Hire
Geoff Estreich
Ph 49 345958

Auto Electrical

Laurie' Auto Electrical
Ph 49 221195 or
0407756046

RECIPE CORNER

Fetta, Spinach & Leek Tart

200 grams Fetta – crumbed, ½ cup thick cream, 1 leek, 3 eggs, 20 grams butter, 2 tbsp shredded sweet basil leaves, 160 grams baby spinach leaves, fresh cracked pepper, ½ cup sour cream, 2 sheets frozen puff pastry sheets.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Grease loose base tart pan (35 x 13 cm).

Cut leek in half, wash and slice thinly (1 cup).

Melt butter & lightly sauté leek over medium heat – 4 minutes.

Remove and spinach, cover and cook until wilted. Squeeze moisture out.

Combine creams, eggs and mix together in a bowl, add fetta, leek, spinach and basil.

Season with pepper and stir well.

Line tray with pastry and prick base. Pour mixture into the pan. Bake in the middle of the oven for 30-35 minutes until firm and golden.

GARDENING TIPS

Now, before the seeds ripen, is the time to remove those horrible creepers that spring up in your garden – you know the ones with the blue or red flowers which are grown for feed. Ensure that you don't just break it off but sharpen your spade and slice through the tap root below the earth. It may seem obvious but don't put these prunings into the mulch as the seeds will sprout. Either put them into black plastic and leave it in the sun for a few days to cook or burn them. It is also the time to clean out your garden of the summer show and to prepare it for winter mulching and tidy up. Happy Gardening from Jill

To get you in the mood for the elections..... “The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance.”

Cicero 55BC ---- nothing has changed in thousands of years 'eh?

This edition proudly sponsored by the following businesses:

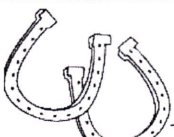
The Engine Centre Rockhampton

Danny McNamara

Ph 49 34 1473 / Mob 0438 341 473

22 Sheehan Road, Alton Downs

Servicing all cars, 4WD, trucks and tractors





Pest Control

Amalgamated Pest Control
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Wandal
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Ph 49 227307

Gifts

Australian Country Living
Ph 49 280088

Painter & Decoration

Interior/Exterior
M & S McQuillan
PH 49 345560

Stock Feed

Delrosa
Ph 49 341135 or
0418155819

Water Services

Bell's Water Supplies
Drinking and Stock
Ph 49 331752

Electrician

Possum Power
Ian Nicholas
Ph 49345116

Batteries

Battery World
Rockhampton
Ph 49 229022

Healthy Soils , Healthy Pastures

Free Workshops

Cutting Edge One Day Soil & Pastures Workshop For The 21st Century

with Mick Alexander

ALTON DOWNS

26TH / 27TH MARCH

NEBO

29TH / 30TH MARCH

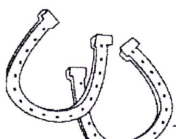
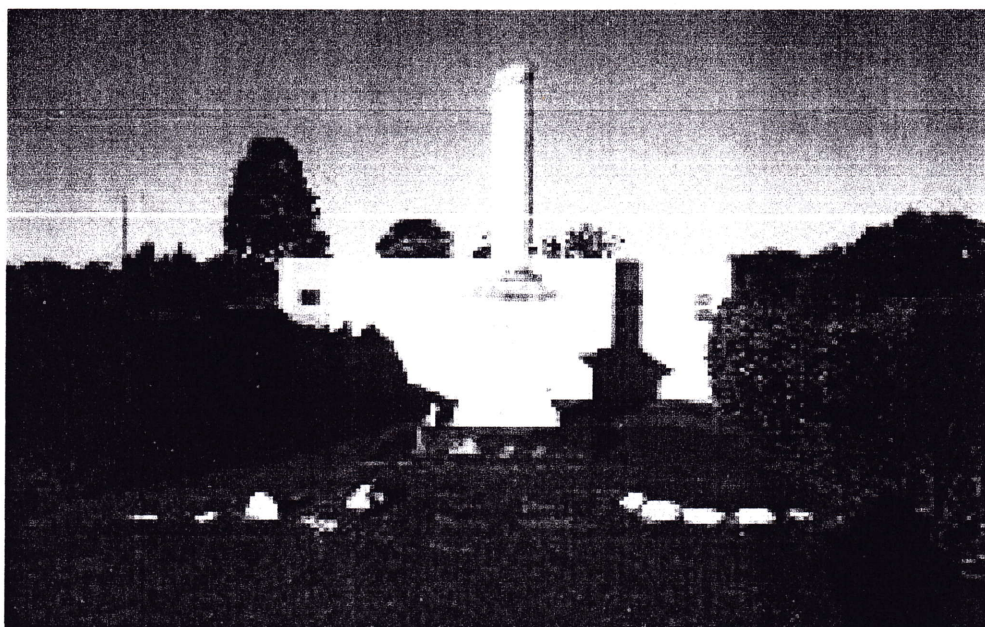
- Soils, carbon sequestration & microbes
 - Grazing systems & rotational grazing
 - Understand the interactions between soil and plants, biology and nutrients
 - Water quality and stock impact
 - Developing property plans
 - Potential to access funding for onground works
- FBA staff will be available to discuss onground projects

Supported and funded by



For more information and to book phone
Cathe
0749 383919

Anzac Day Dawn Service 25th April 4.27 am at the Alton Downs Memorial at Hall with Breakfast to follow.....





What's happening this month?

Meetings

QCWA

Ridgelands Branch meetings held on the 1st Wednesday every month, starting at 9:30am.

Stitch and Chat Group

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month starting at 9:30am. QWCA room, all welcome Ph 49 345145

Northern Districts Rate payers Asscn.

Meetings held quarterly. 2012 meetings to be held 30th April & 5th November, 7:30pm at Ridgelands State School and 6th August at Alton Downs Hall. Covering the areas of Pink Lily, Alton Downs, Ridgelands, Morinish, Dalma, South Yaamba, Glenroy, Garnant.

Celebrations

Birthdays

Eden Chippendale

Events

Alton Down Hall Association Dances

Date Change due to Election. Now to be held 31 st March. Dance starts at 7:30pm, raffles and novelty prizes to be won, supper also available. Please call Joyce Chippendale on 49 34 5120 or Tom Hoare on 49 341493.

Indoor Bowls

Held 2nd Saturday of every month at Alton Downs Hall. All welcome

Alton Downs Hall Annual Cent Sale

Saturday 21st April Commencing 1.30p.m. Good Prizes All welcome

QCWA Ridgelands Branch are hosting a Mothers' Day Afternoon

Tea at the Ridgelands Community Hall, Sunday 29th April 2012 commencing at 1.30 p.m. Contact:

Hilary Chippendale on 4934 5125 or Joyce Chippendale 4934 5120

Community Notices

Alton Downs Hall Committee

To book community hall please contact Booking Officer, Sid Hoare on 49 341147.

Alternatively call, T Hoare 49 34 1493 J Chippendale 49 345120

The Rockhampton Regional Council is having a Art Anytime Workshop at Ridgelands QCWA Room on the 22nd May – Beading Blitz with Joy Swindells and 10th July Clay Capers with Fiona Dyer
Phone 4927 4111 to book.

Learn to SQUARE DANCE

Every Friday Night 7pm at Rton Square Dance Hall cnr Fitzroy and Kent St. LOW Cost fun.

Contact Rachael or Michael 0428 761244 or 0408703901

The Ridgelands & District Sporting & Agricultural Assn Inc. will be holding their annual show on the 2nd June. Don't forget to mark this on your calendar. Come along and join in all the fun and catch up with your friends and neighbors.



Healthy Soils



Healthy Pastures

**ALTON DOWNS
26th & 27th March**

begins 8.00am

**Build the JIGSAW
IT ALL BEGINS WITH SOIL**

- USE STOCK TO CREATE HEALTHY SOILS
- LEARN ABOUT CARBON, MICROBES AND NUTRIENTS
- WHY ROTATIONAL GRAZING WORKS
- PASTURES AND CROPPING SYSTEMS
- HOW TO CREATE PROFIT\$
- UTILISE YOUR COUNTRY MORE EFFECTIVELY
- DEVELOPING PROPERTY PLANS
- SOURCE FUNDING FOR YOUR PLANS



**“MAKE THE MOST OF
YOUR PASTURES”**

Please join us for this “CUTTING EDGE GRAZING MANAGEMENT” course. This course looks at the grazing system, like you have never seen it before. You will learn how interconnected carbon, profitability and the management of the land and pasture, your property plan and your actions. The latest science with practical hands on actions.

Come on, enrol & learn how a few individuals are making a real difference in your industry!!!!

The FREE course runs for 1.5 days, with part of the workshop on farm developing practical common sense tools to help you manage your land.

**This is a FREE
HEALTHY SOILS
Course**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT
TODAY!
CALL 1300 780 872**



WORKSHOP PROGRAM ... INCLUDES

PUTTING A VALUE ON GRASS

- Gross margin of grass based pastures
- Weight gains/ day
- Comparing enterprises.

BALANCING THE SYSTEM.

- Our actions have an impact
- The living soil –microbe management
- The answer is Fungi / Mycorrhiza
- Harvesting sunlight and water

HOW GRASS GROWS

- The three phases
- Rest and weight gain
- Managing grass - Various systems
- Fire and its effect on soil and pasture
- Strategies for grazing effectively -
- Monitoring grazing systems.
- Dung Beetle management.

THE WAY CARBON WORKS

- The carbon cycle
- Effects of grazing and cultivation on carbon
- Carbon and water storage
- Carbon and soil health and sequestration

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Trees and pasture working together
- Nutrient Cycling.

MANAGING NUTRIENTS

- Key nutrients - what they do
- Balancing nutrients
- Soil health analysis/ monitoring

COMPOST/ NUTRIENTS AND MICROBIAL BREWS

- What is compost and CT?
- Liquid injection.
- Future options.

PROPERTY PLANNING FOR PROFIT

- Utilisation
- Water circles
- Fencing to landtype
- Cost Benefit analysis.
- Sourcing funds.

The program will include a farm walk and follow up support with grazing consultant, Mick Alexander. FBA staff will be available to discuss project development and funding options. This workshop is supported by FBA, FRCC, Reef Rescue and the Australian Government.

Presenter: - Mick Alexander – Is a highly experienced grazing management & healthy soils trainer, working with primary producers who are at the cutting edge of pasture and soil management and property planning in Australia. He has been involved in the grazing industry for 30 years and running cattle until 2000. Mick and his wife Noela established Grazing BestPrac in 2004 as a way of continuing to source the latest scientific information for the grazing community and provide quality training and consulting services. PHONE 0438395255

Testimonials -

"This was the most inspiring learning day I have ever spent being educated. I thought I knew a lot about the land until this day – Now I really do understand the jigsaw of the grazing system. The exciting part for me was the explanation of the linkage between soil health, pasture health and the things we do with our livestock. Every action on top of the ground has a reaction under the soil. Mick has taken all the best science of grazing best practice from around the world and combined that with practical hands on experience to make a thoroughly brilliant workshop. I am totally inspired by this day and would recommend that all graziers should attend this course, prior to undertaking any development or funding from government bodies".

Don Mallet, "BARMOYA"

"Much more confidence about the future. Most valuable course I have been to". **Colin Goodwin, "Bluff"**

"Given me huge inspiration & motivation to act on improving my block. Great course - will be in touch for advice & guidance in the future. Thanks" **Michael Bennett, "Blackwater"**

"Problems can be fixed or improved by implementation of simple measures that don't cost the earth. Each day this week I've thought about the workshop & have got my head around everything & realise this knowledge is even more valuable than I first thought. Thank You". **Jenny Bidgood, "Baralaba"**

"Excited to see what untapped potential there is out there for the grazing industry and individual landholders".

David Jones, "Comet"

"It has made me realize that we do not have to let the climate, season or lack of rain control our management decisions. Very informative & enjoyable". **Debbie Dingle "Mt Perry"**



Sponsored by FBA and FRCC

For more information and to book please call Cathe on
1300 780 872 or Mick on 0438 395255

Or email- cathe@grazingbestprac.com.au or Web www.grazingbestprac.com.au