

# Around the Ridges

and a bit beyond



e 91 / September 2011

Email [aroundtheridges@hotmail.com](mailto:aroundtheridges@hotmail.com)

Fax 49 345565

Phone 49 341192

## Kapu Goeyga ngitha mulpa mura, (Good day everyone, how are you? )

I have been asked to share a bit of information about my time up in the Torres Strait. It's been an exciting and challenging journey for a shy girl from Ridgeland, but incredibly rewarding and one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I can clearly remember the day I got the phone call from Education Queensland offering me my first permanent position on a little island called Boigu Island in the Torres Strait, and remember thinking, where on earth is that?

Well, it is situated 6km south of Papua New Guinea. Yes, you can see the Papua New Guinea coastline from here. Boigu is one of the islands that make up the Top Western cluster in the Torres Strait. Because of our proximity to Papua New Guinea, the PNG people from the local villages visit about three times a week, trading their artefacts (drums, mats, baskets, carvings) for rice, sugar, clothes and fuel.

Boigu Island is a mud island (no not tropical). So it is very flat and largely consists of mangrove vegetation. Which also means plenty of fish (Barramundi, Mangrove Jack, Travely, Fingermark, Queen fish) prawns, crayfish (kayar), mud crabs (githalai), dugong (dhanghal), turtle (waru) and yes, sharks (baydham) and crocodiles (koedhal) which can make swimming a little difficult at times.

The population consists of about 300 Boigu islanders and maybe up to five or six non-indigenous people. The Boigu Island people speak Torres Strait Creole (sounds a bit like Broken English) and Kala Kawaw Ya, the language I greeted you with, which is their traditional language. They are very friendly people who enjoy a good laugh and a laid back lifestyle. The notion of family is very different to the typical 'nuclear' family unit we refer to, with families including grandparents or aunts or uncles, parents, and siblings and cousins, sometimes all living in the same house. The idea of the 'community raising the child' is evident everywhere you look.

Boigu island people are amazingly talented across many areas. They have natural ability playing sport, particularly Touch Football and Rugby League and we have had students reach national levels for athletics and rugby league. Pretty good for an island with no They are highly regarded across the Straits in regards to traditional dancing. I still get

ound the Ridges  
l a bit beyond is  
ommunity and  
ool newsletter.

e newsletter is  
duced monthly,  
l is funded  
ough  
ponsorship  
l advertising.

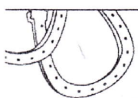
ou wish to  
tribute to the  
vsletter, please  
d all material in  
the 15th of  
ry month.

vertising for  
cial events must

mitted two  
nths in advance.

you have an  
iting story to  
?

want to hear  
m!!!! Please  
d your story, as  
are a valued  
t of our  
munity and  
newsletter.





**Auctioneer**

Richard Thomson  
Ph 49 271308 or  
0438345928

**Pet Shop Supplies**

Pets  
PJ's Pet Barn  
North Rockhampton  
Ph 49 280299

**Think Water**

Rockhampton  
Peter Hunt  
Ph 49 27 5700

**Mustering/Stock  
Work**

Warren Lawrence  
Ph: 4934 1451  
Mob: 0427 889 259

**Pumps**

W Kele— Precast  
concrete grids etc.  
Ph 49 274505

**Celebrant**

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

**Earth Moving**

Truck, Bobcat Hire  
Geoff Estreich  
Ph 49 345958

**Auto Electrical**

Maorie' Auto  
Electrical  
Ph 49 221195 or  
0407756046

chills and a little teary every time I hear their natural harmonious singing and see their incredibly rousing dances. It is very compelling. The school on the island is the most northern school in Australia. I would have to say one of the biggest inspirations and motivations for me living up here are the kids.

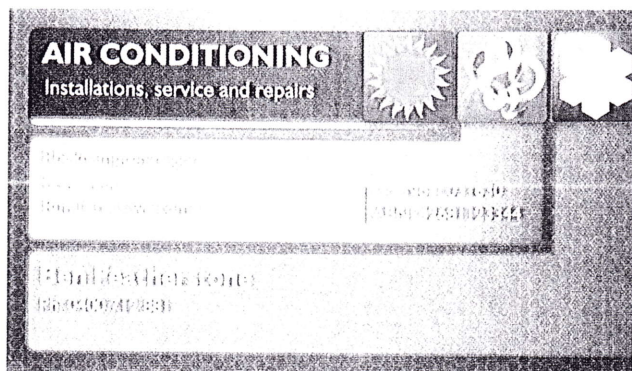
As mentioned earlier, people here speak two other languages, with English being their third language. You can imagine the barriers to learning that this puts in place for the kids. They are still taught the same curriculum as their peers on the mainland. So you learn pretty quickly when teaching, what works and what doesn't.

Having said that, some of the results that I have seen our kids produce are amazing and do often match those of students down south. So the kids are very clever and inspiring. They love learning and constantly have a big cheeky smile on their face. The kids play outside until after dark, running up and down the little streets with string attached to a thong, pretending it's a dinghy, spending hours in the rain running through puddles with a drum and a board. There are no PlayStations or other computer games and the kids would rather be out running around outside than watching TV. Just like the old days!

*To be continued next month. Thanks to Kaylene Chippendale for her great story. Kaylene attended Ridgeland State School from 1987-1994.*

## Coles Sports for Schools vouchers

For those of you that shop at Coles, could you please collect the Coles Sports for schools vouchers and forward them to the school by the 20<sup>th</sup> October.



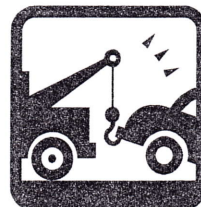
## The Engine Centre Rockhampton

Danny McNamara

Ph 49 34 1473 / Mob 0438 341 473

22 Sheehan Road, Alton Downs

Servicing all cars, 4WD, trucks and tractors





**es Control**  
 amalgamated Pest  
 control  
 h 49 214255

**mechanical Repairs**  
 obo's Motorworks  
 /andai  
 h 49 210200

**Quantity Surveyor**  
 eil Richardson  
 ax Depreciation  
 eports  
 h 49 3410 01

**ifts**  
 ustralian Country  
 ving  
 h 49 280088

**ainter & Decoration**  
 terior/Exterior  
 l & S McQuillan  
 H 49 345560

**ay & Fodder**  
 elrosa  
 h 49 341135 or  
 418155819

**Water Services**  
 ell's Water Supplies  
 rinking and Stock  
 h 49 331752

**ectrician**  
 ossum Power  
 n Nicholas  
 h 49345116

**atteries**  
 attery World  
 ockhampton  
 n 49 229022

## The Alton Downs Cemetery – Local stories

Wander around the beautifully manicured grounds of the Alton Downs Cemetery and you are likely to discover fascinating stories of local identities.

An elegant headstone marks the final resting place for two members of the Handley family - Albert Ernest Handley, and his son, Ernest Handley who were laid to rest in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Sergeant Ernest Handley's story is particularly interesting as he was a pilot with the Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C) during World War I. Born in 1893, Ernest's father Albert died when he was a young man of thirteen. Mrs Handley remarried Charles Scott in 1911, with a young baby soon entering the fold. Tragedy was poised to strike the family over twenty years later with this son one of the first men to be killed at Tobruk in 1941.

Ernest travelled to England at his own expense, enlisting with the R.F.C on 28 December 1915. He served his country well, flying in various battles in France and received a distinguished medal for bravery from the French Government. At the time of his death in England in 1917, he was heavily involved in teaching flying, and was instructing a lieutenant in the finer points of aerodynamics in an Army biplane over the area of Woodham Grange, Addlestone. A gardener who observed the accident on the morning described two loud explosions, with the biplane splitting and the right wing of the plane folding back on the body of the machine. The aircraft then spiralled out of control at 3000ft until it crashed into a meadow near Addlestone killing both men. Ernest was a young man of 24 years in 1917.

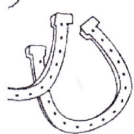


At the base of the headstone is the engraved name of 'G.H Jenkins R'TON' – the local stonemason who crafted the monument for the widow Mrs Scott (Handley). George Hopkin Jenkins was one of Rockhampton's early stonemasons, studying under James McKenzie who crafted many of the headstones in the old Rockhampton Cemetery. Jenkins was born in Llandaff, Glamorganshire, Wales in 1860, emigrating to Sydney in 1883. A great lover of the Ulam marble, he opened the first quarry at Ulam and held a lease of sandstone quarry at Stanwell. Said to possess a marvelous tenor voice, Jenkins was a member of the first Musical Union in Rockhampton and a member of the first Rockhampton Eisteddfod Committee. Jenkins died in 1932, fifteen years after the memorial to the Handley's was crafted.

The local area is alive with wonderful stories such as these.

Sources: *The Times* 23 August 1917, *The Morning Bulletin* 26 January 1932 and Jennifer

Collins (nee Handley), Moura





**Vide Span Sheds**

P.J. Evans  
Lockhampton  
Ph 49 27 1266  
[www.pjevans.com.au](http://www.pjevans.com.au)

**Real Estate**

Ray White Rural  
Suzy McNamara  
Ph 49 333309

**Real Estate**

Ray White Rural  
Geoff McNamara  
Ph 49 333309

**Doni's Tempting Treats**

Home cooking for all  
our requirements  
Ph 49 345636

**Tyres**

Robo's Tyreworks  
Vandal  
Ph 49 273360

**Upholstery**

Trop's Upholstery—  
Motor marine etc.  
Ph 49 272137

**Cabinet Maker**

Timber Merchant  
I. Watkins  
Ph 49 341243

**Earth Moving**

Truck, Bobcat + +  
Greg Thompson  
Ph 0407 156 662

**Mechanical Repairs &**

**WC**

Giff Munro  
Ph 49 224882

**Country Kitchen:**

**Savoury Impossible Pie**

- 2 cups Milk
- 4 eggs
- 90g butter, melted
- ½ cup plain flour
- 1cup grated cheese
- ½ cup frozen spinach, thawed
- ¼ cup chopped sundried tomatoes
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 200gm Ham, chopped

Preheat oven to moderate (180)

Lightly grease a deep 15cm pie plate. In a large jug, whisk milk, eggs and butter together. Season to taste. Sift flour into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre. Gradually whisk in milk mixture. Mix half the cheese and all the ham, spinach, tomatoes and shallots. Spoon mixture into the pie plate. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 45-50 minutes until firm.

**Date Claimer!**

Ridgeland's Hall Community **Christmas Party** 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm

**IMPORTANT -Woolworths EARN and Learn Points**

Please collect your Woolworths dockets with Earn and Learn points, which are available up to 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please send these into the school so the school can redeem the points from the Woolworths website.

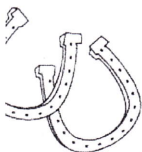
**What Kids say:**

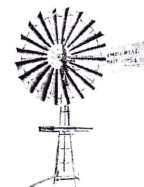
*If you could change one thing about your mum what would it be?*

-She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.

-I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

-I'd make my mum smarter. Then she'd know it was my sister who did it not me.





# What's happening this month?

## Meetings

### QCWA

Ridgелands Branch meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month, starting at 9:30am.

### Stitch and Chat Group

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

### Northern Districts Rate payers Asscn.

Held quarterly. Next meeting to be held at the Ridgелands State School, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – 7.30 pm. Covering the areas of Pink Lily, Alton Downs, Ridgелands, Morinish, Dalma, South Yaamba, Glenroy, Garnant.

### Dalma Rural Fire Brigade

will be holding their AGM followed by a Public & General meeting to discuss Fire Levy.

**When:** 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Where:** Dalma Hall

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

We would appreciate the attendance of any persons within Dalma Brigade area. N J Hinz – President.

## Meetings

### Alton Downs Rural Fire

Brigade will be holding their AGM followed by a public meeting for discussion of Fire levy.

**When:** 21<sup>st</sup> September

**Where:** Alton Downs Hall

**Time:** 7.00 p.m.

All welcome. For more information phone Owen 0408 196 556 or May – 0429 341 084

### Ridgелands & District Sporting & Agricultural

Asscn Inc will be hold their AGM on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Ridgелands Show Grounds at 7.30p.m.

**Meeting Date** are:

12<sup>th</sup> October

9<sup>th</sup> November

7<sup>th</sup> December

The annual Christmas party will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00 p.m.

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

Jack Bush

Leonie Thompson

Alysha Fossett

## Events

### Alton Down Hall

Association Dances, 17<sup>th</sup> September, Two Can, 29<sup>th</sup> October, Man in Black, 19<sup>th</sup> November, Two Can 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month at Alton Downs Hall. All welcome

### Camp Quality Monthly Markets & Car Boot Sale

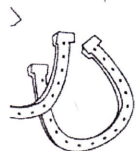
Held 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month at Conaghan Park, Gracemere from 8:00am-12:00pm  
Vacancies exist for new stall holders.  
Ph 0447 361 693.

## Community Notices

### Alton Downs Hall

#### Committee

To book community hall please contact Booking Officer, Sid Hoare on 49 341147 or T Hoare 49 34 1493  
J Chippendale 49 345120



### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Cost	Enquiries
Lee Kernighan	Moura Recreation Grounds	26/08/2011	6pm	\$20 Adult Children 17 and under free Ticket includes entry to the Coal and Country Festival on Friday 26/08/2011	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>
2011 Rocky Fringe Short Film Competition	Walter Reid Cultural Centre	26/08/2011	8pm	\$15 Adults \$10 Members/Concessions	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>
Circus Oz	Pilbeam Theatre	09/09/2011	7.30pm	\$45 Adults \$40 Pensioner \$40 Youth \$32 Junior \$135 Family Friend & Group concessions	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>
Shaolin Warriors	Pilbeam Theatre	14/09/2011	7.30pm	\$79 Adult \$69 Pensioner, Unemployed, Commonwealth Seniors Card, Tertiary Student \$45 Children 3-16 \$64 Group 6 +	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>
Tina Turner Tribute	Pilbeam Theatre	16/09/2011	8pm	\$39 Adults \$29 Concessions/Junior	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>
Short + Sweet Dance	Pilbeam Theatre	17/09/2011	7.30pm	\$42 Adults \$37 Pensioner \$37 Youth Friend & Group Concessions	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>
Hollywood Classics – Old Yeller	Walter Reid Cultural Centre	20/09/2011	10.30am	\$5 all tickets	Dial n Charge 49274 111 <a href="http://www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au">www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au</a>

#### **Rockhampton Regional Council – Community Assistance Program.**

Applications are now being invited for funding under Council's Community Assistance Program. Local incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for funding for projects to be undertaken in the 2011/12 financial year. Applications will close at 4.00 p.m. on Monday 12 September 2011.

Applications forms for the Community Assistance Program may be found on Council's website [www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au](http://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au) and are available from the Council libraries and the Customer Service Centre.

Requests for further information may be made by calling 4936 8529 or email to [enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au)