

# Around the Ridges

and a bit beyond

Issue 114 / October 2013 Email [aroundtheridges@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## A NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY

Who doesn't like to go on holidays, just the chance to have a couple of weeks of travelling in a different country? Two weeks of site seeing around the South Island of New Zealand that sounds good. We had been told it was a beautiful place to visit, now after having seen it I can definitely agree WOW!

We arrived in Christchurch at 2am getting through Customs a breeze. Philip and I decided to stay in the airport lounge until 7am, at which time our hire car could be collected. Concrete floors, even with carpet on them are not the most comfortable for sitting/lying on. We were not as well prepared as all the backpackers with sleeping bags and pillows. Oh to be 20 again. Our hire car, a Nissan Sunny (2002) arrived as expected at 7am. The weather was not good - raining, windy and freezing cold (for a Queenslander). On recommendation from the hire car company we decided to head north to Hanmer Springs about 110 kilometres away. Thank goodness for GPS otherwise we might still be trying to find our way north!

Hanmer Springs, what can I say! It was breathtakingly beautiful, huge mountain ranges, deep valleys and rivers that twist and turn. Little did I know that these scenes would be a regular feature over the next couple of weeks. Hanmer Springs is well known for its thermal springs, attracting people from all over the area. That was evident by the amount of people making their way into the Thermal pools. We booked in to a backpackers lodge for the night. Later that evening, when it was time to have a shower, no towels to be found in our room and the owner had gone home. What to do, singlets make good towels if ever this happens again! Left Hanmer Springs early, making our way to the Westport on the west coast. The trip, although long, was just magnificent. Driving alongside raging rivers, towering mountain ranges, at every turn of the road something even more spectacular was in front of us. Stopped at Buller River Gorge where I walked across a swing bridge, 70 metres above the river. It was a bit scary but oh so beautiful. Arrived Westport at about 3pm, it is a small coastal township. The oldest town on the west coast founded on gold mining, which gave way to coal mining. Heading south our destination - Franz Josef. Franz Josef a small township with lots of tourists, most come for the snow and the glaciers. We decided to walk to the Franz Josef Glacier the next day. It was so interesting to see snow and ice so close but yet so far. We could hear the cracking of the ice and the occasional noise of ice breaking away and dropping. Our next stop was Fox Glacier where Philip had talked me into going up in a very small helicopter to experience the glacier from the air. WOW what an adventure. The ice is just so blue and the crevices so deep. The trip only lasted 10 minutes but it was fantastic. As we travelled further south there was so much to see the beautiful blue lakes, raging rivers and the pounding sound of waterfalls. Milford Sound was our next stopover. We booked a cruise, which went for 2 hours, and were treated to great commentary from our Captain who knew so much about the Sound and was able to answer many questions.

The earthquakes in 2011 have left Christchurch and surrounding areas in a sad state. We went on a bus tour of Christchurch and surrounding areas. It was heartbreaking to see office blocks and large buildings that are still standing but will be knocked down because they are not safe. There are so





many homes no longer able to be lived in. The Christchurch Cathedral is being painstakingly reconstructed at great cost to the Council. Beautiful homes left vacant because they are no longer safe to live in. What devastation this earthquake has left behind.

The stand out places of interest on our holiday would have to be Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers (helicopter ride), the drive to Milford Sound and Milford Sound, the Homer Tunnel (built during the depression in 1930's), Mirror Ponds, the Shotover Jet Boat Ride in Queenstown, Dunedin, Mt Cook and Kaikoura.

I could go on on but I recommend you see it for yourself. There is just so much to see and you'll be gob-smacked by the scenery, the mountain ranges, waterfalls and lakes. By the way didn't have to use singlets as towels for the rest of our journey they were supplied everywhere else. It was such a wonderful holiday and I would definitely recommend to anyone to go check it out. - Robyn O'Neill

### SCHOOL NEWS

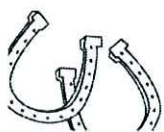
Term 3 has been a very busy time for Ridglands State School. We have had a very successful Country Fair; our Equestrian Team have competed at two equestrian events. The school has been involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge and students have competed in Rocky District Athletic Trials as well as combining with Crescent Lagoon State School to win the year 6 Rugby League Grand Finals. One of our year 7 students has enjoyed attending the Rockhampton High School Students with Disability Transitional Program. This program aims to ease the transition from primary to secondary school and familiarises students with the S.E.P. and life at high school. This term students enjoyed having Beaks' Tennis provide tennis coaching during Tuesday lunch hours. On top of all this extra-curricular activity, the students have worked very hard and improved their results academically; our NAPLAN results are very pleasing. Our students and teaching staff are ready for a well-deserved break.

Our school community has been rocked with some bad news. Mr Jamie Manuele a member of our school community and father of Tommy-Lee and Trinity lies in an induced coma in a Brisbane hospital fighting for his life, after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. His partner Cara is by his beside. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers over the coming months. If you would like to assist the family, a donation can be made by donating to NAB Account no- 948843635 BSB – 084-905. We are asking parents, students and community members to help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school. If you see something suspicious, please do not intervene. Call the School Watch number or the Local Police on 13 14 44.

Ridglands State School has been registered as an 'EarthSmart School' and last week we had our first waste assessment. The program involves educating students and community about recycling and waste reduction strategies. The program, supported by BMA, encourages schools to actively participate with CQLGA in diverting 50% of their waste to landfill over three years. Already, the school has set up two specific bins for organic and other waste materials in the eating areas. A new worm farm has been set up to turn our organic waste into plant food. We will continue to manage our paper recycling program. This is only the start of the many stimulating activities that our school will be involved in.

We celebrated Teacher Aide Day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September to recognise the great work our teacher aides do to support our students and teachers. The help they offer goes a long way in our classrooms, providing the extra attention some students need to get the most out of a lesson and supporting our teachers to organise engaging and educational activities each day. Ridglands recognises the skills, abilities and flexibility that teacher aides contribute to the daily life of our school. Thank you to our wonderful teacher aides on behalf of our whole school community.

We are now taking enrolments for 2014 Prep to Year 7. If you are interested in enrolling students, enrolment packs are available from the school office or phone: 49345518 and we will send you one. We are looking forward to seeing lots of new faces in 2014. School Holidays start on Saturday 21st September and we will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October



## RECIPE CORNER

### CARAMEL CHEESECAKE



#### Ingredients:

- 250g butternut biscuits
- 125 g butter, cubed
- 500g cream cheese, softened
- 380 g can Caramel Top-n-fill
- 2 teasp gelatine
- 2 tablespoons hot water

#### Method:

Lightly grease and line 22cm spring-form pan and line with baking paper.

Using a food processor, pulse biscuits and butter together until fine crumbs form.

Press firmly over base and sides of pan. Chill in refrigerator.

In a small bowl, using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese and caramel Top-n-Fill (reserving ¼ cup) until smooth.

Whisk gelatine in the hot water until dissolved. [Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Text Box Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]

Beat into caramel mixture. Pour into pan.

Spoon dots of reserved caramel over filling.

Using a skewer, swirl the top. Chill overnight.

### Are you interested in gardening?



Why not join the Rockhampton Horticultural Society. We meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7.30 p.m. at the Crowley Pavilion.

Guest speakers, plant competitions, bus trips, company of like minded gardeners.

**Quote** - Good humour is a tonic for mind and body. It is the best antidote for anxiety and depression. It is a business asset. It attracts and keeps friends. It lightens human burdens. It is the direct route to serenity and contentment.

**For all those budding young writers in our community** -The Rockhampton Regional Council are holding a series of free writing workshops for young people with local author Royce Bond at various Rockhampton Regional Libraries during the September school holidays.

For further information contact the Library on 4936 8265

### Some things you do not need to know

It is 14 weeks to Christmas.  
A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.  
There are more chickens

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# What's Happening this month?

## Meetings

**QCWA** Ridgелands Branch meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

### 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

### Ridgелands & District Sporting &

#### gricultural Asscn Inc.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> October

commencing at 7.30 p.m. at the

Ridgелands Show grounds.

## Community Notices

### **Alton Downs Sports & Recreation**

**grounds.** If you do not feel like cooking on Friday nights why not go down to the Alton Downs Sports & recreation grounds from 6.00 p.m. – 8.00p.m. Burgers, Fish & Chips and homemade chicken bites are served.

### ie Northern district rate payers

#### association would like to advise that

their next meeting will be held on the

4<sup>th</sup> November at the Alton Downs

Hall, commencing 7.30 p.m.

### Ridgелands Tennis Club.

The Ridgелands Tennis Club has 75th Anniversary commemorative Coffee

Mugs for sale at \$10/mug. For further

information please contact Club

President Vivian Duff on Phone

49345144

## Chair Hire

Contact the Ridgелands State School

P&C to hire chairs for functions.

Ph 4934 5518

## Community Notices

### Alton Downs Hall Committee

will be holding a dance on Friday

29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. Two

Can will be playing. Super, Raffles

and Novelties.

### Alton Downs Hall Bookings

To book community hall please

contact Booking Officer, Sid Hoare

on 4934 1147.

Alternatively call,

T Hoare 4934 1493

J Chippendale 4934 5120

### CWA Cent Sale

The Ridgелands CWA will be holding a

cent sale on the 29<sup>th</sup> September at

the Ridgелands Hall, commencing at

1.30 p.m. For more information,

please contact Hilary on 4934 5125.

one."

## Celebrations



Happy Birthday to

everyone who is

having a birthday in

October.

Fiona Peterson

Greg Dyer

Lachlan Hunt

Josuha Hunt

## Congratulations



Welcomed to the world by big

brothers Logan and Bryan

and parents Chris and Chantal

Booth on 8th Aug 2013,

Morgan Hannah Robertson Booth

## Congratulations



To Lindsay Hinz and Kate

Palfrey on their engagement.

We wish you all the best for

your future together.

## Date Claimers

The Ridgелands Hall committee will

be holding their Christmas Karaoke

night on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

## School Holiday

### Activities

Get up close and personal with Council's new cuddly Koala or go wild at your local library – there's something for everyone during the September/October school holidays!

For a fun-filled holiday, checkout the great range of activities to keep the kids busy from Rockhampton Regional Council.

It's an exciting line up and most of them are free or affordable.

"Parents and carers will find something to keep children of all ages entertained during the

September/October school

holidays - there's something for all tastes on offer at Council's

venues. For further information,

please contact the Rockhampton

Regional Council on 4936 8084

## Jokes

There's a senior citizen driving on the highway. His wife calls him on

his mobile phone and in a worried

voice says, "Herman, be careful! I

just heard on the radio that there

was a madman driving the wrong

way on the Ridgелands Road".

Herman says, "I know, but there

isn't just one, there are hundreds!"