

# Around the Ridges

and a bit beyond



Issue 116 / December 2013

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Around the Ridges and a Bit Beyond is a community and school newsletter.

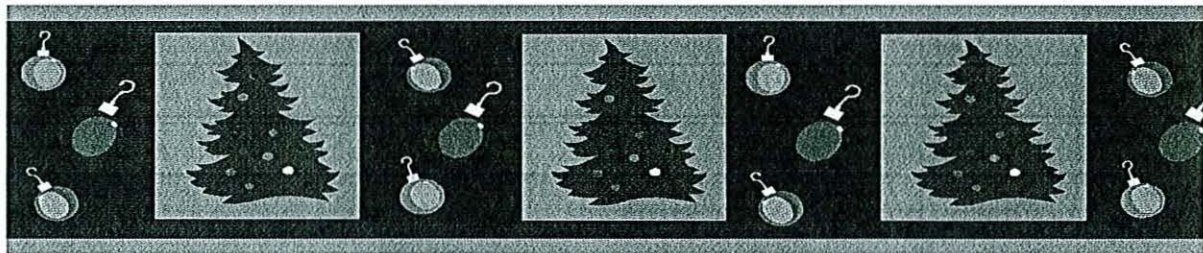
The newsletter is produced monthly, and is funded through sponsorship and advertising.

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.



## SEASON GREETINGS

Can you believe this is our Christmas edition of Around the Ridges Newsletter and the last one for 2013? Christmas has certainly crept up on me and there are still Christmas cakes and Plum puddings to be baked, Shortbread and rum balls to be made and there is the ham and turkey to purchase or maybe some of you have grown your own. I really do look forward to Christmas, but sometimes I have to ask myself "is there a simpler way to enjoy Christmas"?

No matter how you celebrate Christmas, I think the most important thing is to spend it with family and friends when possible and appreciate how fortunate we are.

On behalf of the Around the Ridges newsletter committee we would like to wish everyone in our community a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

In mentioning 2014, this brings me to the production of our Newsletter. We have often asked for community input ie. Stories etc but these are not always readily forthcoming. This is a community newsletter and we try to make it informative and interesting, but without your input we cannot continue to produce this newsletter. In saying this, we will be holding a meeting in late January to discuss the future of the newsletter. We are looking for helpers to assist with the production, as we are currently few in numbers and with other commitments it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the time needed to put the newsletter together.

### Ridgelands State School News

Another school year has come to fruition. I congratulate our students on their achievement throughout 2013. Each child in Prep to Year 7 will receive their Semester Two Student Report soon. We encourage our families to take the time to discuss the report with their child, recognising their strengths and possibly selecting some areas for development, but only once they have enjoyed a well-deserved vacation from school.

I am extremely fortunate to work in a school where all members of our community work collectively for the benefit of all students. Our team at Ridgelands is exceptional and demonstrate the commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm necessary to get the best out of our students. Our bank of volunteers, parents and grandparents, support our school in all endeavours and we are very grateful for your interest and effort.





Ridgelands State School News - continued

Ridgelands' P & C has continued to be instrumental in working with the school to achieve outcomes that not only benefit our students but also the community at large. Thank you to all members of the P & C who all work tirelessly and add so much value to our school.

To those of you who are leaving or will no longer have a child enrolled at Ridgelands, I hope you depart with fond memories knowing that your child has experienced something very special at this school. I wish our year 7 graduates all the best in their secondary setting and am confident they have a strong foundation to build on.

To all of you, I take this opportunity to say thank you for your support in what can only be described as an extraordinary year. Our school has maintained a focus on quality teaching and learning and you have all contributed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment. For those of you celebrating Christmas under different circumstances, please find some comfort in knowing that our school community is thinking of you.

I look forward to working with the school community in the New Year with school finishing on the 13<sup>th</sup> December and students returning on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2014

### **Queensland, It's time to 'Get Ready'**

Storm and Cyclone season is almost upon us and it's time for all Queensland residents to get ready for this summer's forces of nature. On any given day, all Queenslanders could be faced with the threat of storm, cyclone or even bushfires, but it's ultimately up to us how we weather the storm and prepare ourselves.

It's up to everyone to ensure nobody is caught off guard by preparing our homes and families so emergency crews can be directed where they will do the most good. More than half of Queensland home insurance claims last year were storm related and much of this damage could have been avoided with some simple maintenance around the home.

While we cannot control the weather, we can prepare our homes at this time of the year and it could save a lot of the heartache that comes with water damage. For further information and resources on how to prepare for disaster visit - <http://www.stormwise.com.au/>

### **Healthy Soils Inc AGM**

We are planning a workshop/field day to be held in conjunction with the AGM Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - 9am to 4pm.

#### **VENUE:**

Ridgelands Hall, Dalma Ridgelands Rd, Ridgelands (next to the Ridgelands School)

#### **SPEAKERS:**

Michael Baker from Australian Certified Organics will talk about what is involved in becoming organic, allowed inputs and disallowed inputs, replacement products and the auditing process.

Geoff Goldberg from Observant to speak on telemetry systems - A simple and cost-effective system that provides the information and control you need for more efficient water use when managing crops and pasture.

Keep an eye on your farm water from anywhere, anytime. See more: <http://observant.com.au/category/case-studies/>

**FIELD TRIP:** 'Bindaree' Blanche Road, Ridgelands

Smoko and lunch provided.

**COST:** FREE for Healthy Soils Inc Members

\$20 for non members (why not join now and come for free)

Please note membership fees are for 5 years (until end of 2017)

\$50 for individuals, \$80 for families, \$150 for Corporate





## The Joy of getting old

My father voluntarily went into a nursing home 12 months ago. He is 88 years old, he still has a sharp mind but unfortunately his body is breaking down and he knew he was unable to look after himself. He busies himself daily on his computer and reading. He also contributes to the 'homes' newsletter with stories of old and his new found passion – poems. He sent me this one which I found particularly amusing and I thought I would share it with our community. – Tracey Boon

*At my age a happy hour is a nap time.*

Remembering....

My forgetting's getting better  
But my remembering is broke  
Now to you that may sound funny  
But to me it is no joke.

For when I's 'here' I'm wondering  
If I really should have been 'there'.  
And when I try to think it through  
I haven't got a prayer.

Often times I walk into a room  
And say, what am I doing here?  
I rack my brains – but all in vain  
As I should have gone in there.

At times I'll put something away  
Where it is safe – but Gee!  
The person it is safest from  
Would you believe is – me!

When shopping I may see someone  
Say Hi, and have a chat. Then when  
That person walks away, I ask myself  
"who was that"

Yes, my forgetting's getting better  
While my remembering is broke  
And it's driving me plumb crazy  
And that isn't a joke,  
To offset this they give me pills,  
Which are supposed to take care of my  
various ills.

One yellow pill I have to pop  
Goes to my heart so it won't stop  
A little white one I also take,  
goes to my hands so they won't shake.

The blue ones that I use a lot  
Tell me I'm happy when I am not.  
The purple pill goes to my brain  
And is supposed to tell me I have no pain.

The capsules tell me not to wheeze  
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.  
The red ones the smallest of them all  
Go to my head so that I won't fall.  
The orange ones very big and bright  
Prevent my legs from cramping in the night.

Despite these pills, dispensed by a nurse  
I keep telling myself they aren't really accurse  
Although they will gradually send me broke  
And have side effects that sound like a joke  
What I would really like to know  
Is what tells each one where to go.

There's nothing seriously the matter with me  
I'm really as healthy as can be  
I may have arthritis in my knees,  
And when I talk – I talk with a wheeze  
My pulse is weak and my blood's a bit thin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

All my teeth had to come out  
And my diet I just don't think about  
I'm overweight and I just can't get thin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The Rockhampton Regional Council has provided funding to assist in the printing of Around the Ridges newsletter, under the community development recovery package which is a joint initiative of the Australia and Queensland Government. The material included in this newsletter does not represent the views our policies of State or Federal Government.



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### Christmas Recipe Corner

Does anyone else have trouble with their pork crackling. If anyone has a tried and proven recipe I love to hear about it. Pork crackling is an elusive beast. Get it right and there'll be a fight for the last piece. Get it wrong and you'll have a table of disappointed faces. A classic roast pork just isn't the same without it. That and the apple sauce. Crackling sounds simple enough, score the fat on top of the meat, rub salt and oil into it and wack it into a hot oven.

Everybody has their own family plum pudding recipes that have been handed down through the generations but I have come across a custard recipe that sounds different. Maybe you might like to try it.

#### Lemon Mascarpone Custard

- 2 Tabsp. Custard powder
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup mascarpone
- 1/3 cup lemon butter
- 2 tbsp Cointreau



Combine custard powder and sugar in medium pan, add orange juice and water, stir until combined. Stir Constantly over medium heat for 3 minutes or until mixture boils and thickens, boil for a further 1 minute.

Add mascarpone, lemon butter and Cointreau, stir until heated through.

Note: Mascarpone is an Italian fresh cream cheese. It is extremely rich and can be used as a substitute for cream. It is available from delicatessens and large supermarkets. Unsuitable to freeze.

### Gifts for the Festive Season

If there is someone you are trying to find a gift for or a gift for the teacher, why not bake some biscuits or make rumballs Or sweets and place them in a lovely Christmas box. There are plenty to choose from at Crazy Clarks and The reject Shop. I always enjoy receiving a gift that is home made.and I am sure everybody else does too.

### Quick Crossword Answers

M	O	R	E	P	R	O	L	I	F	I	C
A	E	B	E	O	I	H					
N	A	T	I	O	N	S	R	A	G	G	A
I	R	O	O	E	M	P					
A	F	O	O	T	R	E	N	T	E	R	
C		I	T		N	U					
A	R	C	H	E	R	P	E	C	T	I	N
L	O		B	I		W					
C	R	A	F	T	Y	G	I	S	M	O	
S	O	U	P	H	O	N					
L	I	N	E	N	A	T	T	E	M	P	T
U	E	G	T	H	M	E					
G	E	T	R	I	G	H	T	H	E	A	D

### Sudoku Solutions

7	9	5	1	4	3	8	2	6
2	3	4	8	6	5	9	1	7
8	6	1	9	2	7	5	3	4
4	1	7	3	5	9	6	8	2
6	5	3	2	8	4	7	9	1
9	8	2	6	7	1	4	5	3
3	2	8	4	9	6	1	7	5
1	7	6	5	3	8	2	4	9
5	4	9	7	1	2	3	6	8



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 'GUS' 5 year old Chihuahua X, desexed, vac & microchipped.  
 No stress dog, great little companion  
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**Disclaimer:** Around the Ridges and A Bit Beyond reserves the right to edit all articles as necessary. Submission does not always guarantee publication. The Committee does not accept responsibility for errors, omissions and inaccuracies. Opinions in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of this committee, school or community.



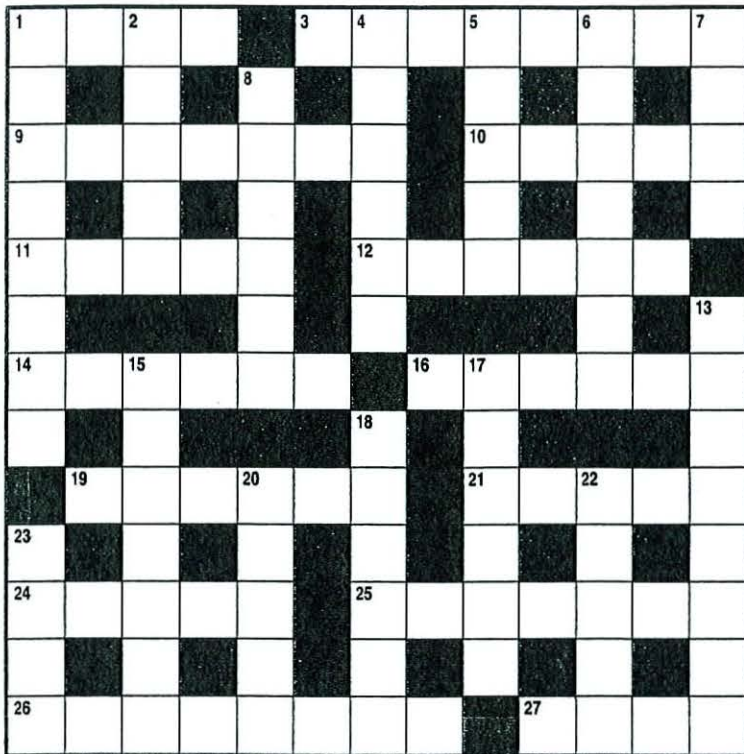


**POSITION VACANT:**

NURSERY HAND – Fitzroy Nursery, Rockhampton - Position would ideally suit person with school aged children.  
For inquiries please phone 07 49272388

Activities for the Grown Ups.

# Quick Crossword



**Across**

1. Further (4)
3. Abundant (8)
9. Countries (7)
10. Style of music similar to reggae (5)
11. Going on (5)
12. Hirer (6)
14. One who shoots with a bow (6)
16. Setting agent (6)
19. Deceitfully clever (6)
21. Gadget (5)
24. Cloth of flax (5)
25. Try (7)
26. Single by Jennifer Lopez (3,5)
27. Leader (4)

**Down**

1. Mad (8)
2. In an old look (5)
4. Holiday town (6)
5. Actress, Sophia \_\_\_ (5)
6. Imaginary story (7)
7. Man (4)
8. Slipper (6)
13. Not required (8)
15. Small crown worn by a peer (7)
17. Next after the seventh (6)
18. Side road (6)
20. Mushrooms (5)
22. River in France (5)
23. Snail-like animal (4)

	9	5		4			2	
2			8					
		1		2		5	3	
				5	9		8	2
		3				7		
9	8		6	7				
	2	8		9		1		
					8			9
	4			1		3	6	



**More Christmas Crackers**

It is claimed that Tom Smith, a baker of wedding cakes from London, invented the Christmas cracker probably in the 1840's. On a visit to Paris he saw some sugar almonds [bon-bons] wrapped in twisted paper. On his return to England Tom designed a cracker shape; also inspired by the sound of logs crackling in a fire, and founded a cracker manufacturers in 1847, which still exists today - possibly the largest manufacturer in the world.



# What's Happening this month?

## Meetings

**QCWA** Ridgeland 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

### Ridgeland & District Sporting & Agricultural Asscn Inc.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 7.30 p.m. at the Ridgeland 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.

### The Fitzroy Northern area rate payers association

would like to advise their meeting dates for 2014.  
February 3 – Ridgeland Hall - AGM  
May 5 - Alton Downs Hall  
August 4 - Ridgeland Hall  
November 3 - Alton Downs Hall  
They welcome all residence in the area to meetings, especially the AGM in February.



### **RIDGELANDS CAR BOOT SALE**

Ridgeland Tennis Club would like expressions of interest for holding a car boot sale/ swap meet early in the new year. Contact Leanne Chippendale 4934 5152 to register or enquire.

## Community Notices

### **Chair.**

Contact the Ridgeland State School P&C to hire chairs for functions. Ph 4934 5518

### 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

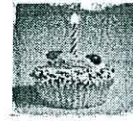


LICENSED CHRISTMAS KARAOKE in aid of Ridgeland Hall Funds  
Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2013  
6.30 pm at the RIDGELANDS HALL  
Roast pork, roast beef and vegetables  
Adults \$15.00, with lucky meal ticket  
Primary school children \$7.00, sweets \$3.00  
Lollies for the children  
RAFFLE and AUCTION  
GOLD COIN ENTRY  
ALL WELCOME

### **Christmas Jokes**

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?" "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant. "That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?" "Before the store opened," countered the prisoner.

## Celebrations



Happy Birthday to everyone who is having a birthday in December.

Dawn Gorle  
Shardaii Thompson

## Congratulations



To Belinda (nee O'Neill) and Craig Wilkes on the safe arrival of Jack, brother for Archer and 4<sup>th</sup> grandson for Philip & Robyn O'Neill.

Wedding Congratulation  
And Best wishes to Jodi-  
Ellen West on her recent



marriage to Troy Mara at Byfield on the 12 October.

## Condolences

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Len Booth. Our thoughts are with you.

### **Christmas Joke**

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. They'd been worn all week and needed the air

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