

Around the Ridges

And a bit beyond

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Fax 4934 5565 Phone 4934 1192

My Cambodia Trip

My old school friend Sue and I went to Cambodia in April. We had planned on a trip together for 2 years and it seemed to come around quickly. In January her husband saw a 'deal' in the Sunday paper and after a few quick phone calls we were booked. In the past I have travelled as a backpacker and stayed at cheap hotels and youth hostels and did not feel the need to do this again. However it was a surprise to be met at the airport by a chauffeur to be driven to Raffles Hotel. This was a different luxury experience for me! However after complimentary drinks we were shown to our room where we left our valuables in the safe and with map in hand went to have a look around Siem Reap. This is a large country town in the middle of Cambodia and has a similar climate to Central Queensland. Getting around was easy as we had checked out the prices for Tuk Tuk drivers before we left the hotel. Naturally as tourists we expected to pay more but was pleasantly surprised to find that we did not have to hassle. When we just wanted to walk around the Tuk Tuk drivers did not hassle us when we said we wanted to walk. Most just smiled and went on. Many people spoke English which was a bonus for us. We arrived during Khmer New Year and Siem Reap is a cultural and religious centre for the Cambodians and we realised that trying to see the temple complex Angkor Wat would have to wait until the public holiday period was over. Although it was a holiday period shops, markets and just about everything else was open (not the government offices). We went to local events in the park, saw temples and went to a local cultural venue where everything was aimed at the locals (ie no English) and I was very happy to watch a Khmer traditional wedding ceremony. Only 4 foreigners there and I was watching the proceedings when the MC needed parents of the bride from the audience. I was very happy to participate with a chap from Melbourne! The parents of both sides cut a little hair from the couple and put it into a bowl where it is pounded with a pole – a bit like a mortar and pestle which reminded me of the Blending of Sands ceremony some of my wedding couples have here. The clothes were fantastic and I later found out that the bride/groom may have up to 15 changes of clothes during the day. I asked why and was advised that traditional silk is quite hot so they have to get freshened up. Later we spent a day at Angkor Wat with a tour guide who was also a teacher. He said it was a requirement for teachers to be a tour guide as the government could not pay big wages. He only had to look after Sue and I so he took us through a number of different entrances to the larger tours which were there. Sue is also a teacher and they discussed the photos he was taking for his class. Angkor Wat began around the 12th century and is covered in detailed carving about local life and of course religious themes. It is primarily a religious site. It is surrounded by a moat which was hand dug. The moat is wider than the Fitzroy River and is many kilometres long. The temple complex outer wall is nearly 4 kilometres long. Angkor Wat was the main reason for our trip which coincided with the 40th anniversary of Pol Pot's forced march of people from the capital Phnom Penh. The country has a long way to go and is quite poor. However we felt safe, not hassled and relaxed wherever we went. Phnom Penh was a busy bustling city with a lot of Chinese investment. The country is well worth a visit and a lot of aid money, both government and private, seems to be used for education. Jill Fry



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

Published monthly, and is funded through sponsorship and advertising. Advertising for special events must be submitted two months in advance. PLEASE TELL US YOUR STORIES! We want to hear them!!!!

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please send all material in by the 11th of every month

Cumquat Jam

Wash and dry the fruit.
Cut the fruit into small pieces.
Put the fruit in a bowl and cover the chopped fruit in a dish

Wash and slice finely, saving the seeds. Put seeds into a cotton bag. Put sliced fruit and water in a boiler bag submerged. Leave overnight. Next day put a saucer into the fridge to cool. Remove seed r gently ½ hour. Add sugar gradually and stir until dissolved. Boil rapidly until jam sets (about 1/2 the jam by putting a little onto the cold saucer to see if it sets. Allow to stand 5 minutes before

Angela McNamara from Alton Downs is an entrant in the Miss World Australia competition and she is raising money for Variety, the Children's Charity.

Raising money as part of Miss World Australia 'Beauty with a Purpose' proceeds going to Variety, the Children's Charity – This is a national *not-for-profit organisation* committed to empowering Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn. By giving practical equipment, programs and experiences, Variety helps children in need to overcome whatever obstacles they face and live life to the fullest – simply put, we help kids be kids.

You can support Angela simply by donating to her Everyday Hero page:

<https://missworldaustralia2015.everydayhero.com/au/angela>

What you have to do is click 'Give now' to make a donation, it doesn't have to be a big donation as ALL donations are greatly appreciated.



(Well Done Angela!)

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What's Happening this Month?

Events

Alton Downs Hall Assoc DANCE Friday 29th May and 31 July commencing 7.30 pm
Music by Sid Stickleby. Raffles, Novelty Prizes and Supper will be served.

TRIVIA NIGHT @ Alton Downs Hall Friday 19th June commencing 7.30pm. Light Supper
Enquiries: Joyce 49345120 or Tom 49341493

QCWA INTERNATIONAL DAY MORNING TEA at Ridgелands Community Hall Wednesday 3rd June at 9.30 am.

Community Notices

Stitch and Chat Group
Meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month starting at 9.30 a.m. QCWA room. All welcome
Phone 4934 5145.

Ridgелands & District Sporting & Agricultural Assen Inc.
Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, commencing at 7.30 p.m. at the Ridgелands Show grounds.

QCWA Ridgелands Branch
meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday every month, commencing at 9.30 a.m. Contact Joyce 4934 5120

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.

The Lexophile Contest:

..When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

.. A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

.. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

.. The batteries were given out free of charge.

.. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

.. A will is a dead giveaway.

.. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

.. A boiled egg is hard to beat.

.. When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

.. Police were called to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

.. Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

.. He had a photographic memory which was never developed

..The man who fell onto the upholstery machine is now fully recovered

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Celebrations

Happy Birthday to all the residents in our community who are having a birthday in **May**:

- Margaret Stewart
- Vic Edminstone
- Sharon McQuillan
- Maurice McQuillan
- Ann-Marie Dyer
- Ian Oates
- Peter Lawton
- Tristan Kipling

RIDGELANDS SHOW

Saturday 30th May
From 8 am

WANDAL ROAD CONVENIENCE STORE

Fish & Chips, Burgers Cold Drinks
133 Wandal Rd Rockhampton
Phone 49225494
Tracey and Ken Milner

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Congratulations A/Downs Ridgелands Facebookers – the Police caught the 'Run Out of Petrol' scammer!

istory for you.....

The Morning Bulletin (TMB) May 8, 'the formation of the **Pandora Sugar Company** is proceeding at slowly, though, we believe, surely. About 4400 shares have been applied for and deposits have d upon half this number. Rapid progress is being made with the Fitzroy Bridge. There are at present men engaged on the work. The fitters and others are busily employed in placing the chains in prior to their suspension across the river. The land chains from the abutments to the saddles of the both sides of the river are connected.' In 1880 the **first telephone** exchange opened in Melbourne.

hort-lived plantation and mill at **Pandora**, Alton Downs (Pandora Mill), and another (Cawarral mpany) at Cawarral, had failed with the price crash of 1884. Pandora Mill was semi-mechanised been the only new mill having a 'concretor' for crystallisation. *Pacific Island Labourers Act ment Act 1884* (Qld) meant that from then, the Islanders were to be limited to field-work in tropical ire, removing them from working in sugar mills, the pastoral and maritime industries, and ily limiting them to the coast. There was a full exemption from this clause for all Islanders who had n Queensland before 1 September 1879. This affected the Sugar Mill profits as the indentured orce received low wages.

ary 1901 Australia's six former British colonies combine in a national federation –**Commonwealth alia** and Edmund Barton is the first Prime Minister. The first national general election is held in 901. Pacific Islands Labour Act stopped most use of Islander (Kanaka) labour - a precursor to the ustralia Policy'.

ustralia's Federal Government takes control of the colonial armed forces and creates an Australian mainly part time volunteer militia. The **Alton Downs Cemetery Trust** was formed.

The First Burial was conducted at the Alton Downs Cemetery. In February 1906 Albert Handley was here. It cost 10 shillings for a burial site. The Church Gazette of December 1906 reported, as part of of St Paul's Cathedral Parish and under the heading "Alton Downs", that the Rector, Archdeacon Halford spent time assessing the need for a Church. He opened a building fund for the building of s in Stanwell and Alton Downs. A piece of land was donated by Mr Campbell Murray at 'Fitzroy ear Hunt Rd). On January 20th 1907, the foundation block of the newly named **St. James Church** at owns was laid by Mrs Campbell (Mary) Murray, of '**Fitzroy Park**'. The church was built in less than 8 he first service was held on the 17th March 1907 and services were held monthly.

William "Billy" Hart made his **first solo airplane flight** on the 3 November, and on 4 November he ok an historic flight from Penrith to land in Parramatta Park in New South Wales, one of the earliest est flights. 16 November 1911 Billy Hart completed flying tests conducted by the Aerial League of a. He was presented with *Australian Aviator's Licence Number One* and became the first qualified he country. He followed this achievement with a remarkable 47 mile (76 km) flight from Penrith ary's to Sydney,

ustralian Flying Corp was established as a branch of the Army. CFS was inaugurated at Point Cook, in March 1913. In May the **first wedding** to be held in the new St James Church was that of Miss Murray, daughter of Mr Campbell and Marv Murray, as she married Mr William Orr.

