

# Around the Ridges

And a bit beyond

Issue 153 April 2017 E: [aroundtheridges@hotmail.com](mailto:aroundtheridges@hotmail.com)

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## *"The Flood" "Debbie"*

**A height of 8.8 metres was recorded.**

The equivalent of four Gabba stadiums full of water passed through Rockhampton every five minutes or Two Sydney Harbours a day at the peak. The largest flood was in January 1918 at 10.1 metres. 1954 peaked at 9.4 metres, 1991 at 9.3 and in 2011 at 9.2 metres.

What a start to the year of 2017. Some positives were Thank Goodness it was School Holidays for the worst of it, Thank Goodness for the people that volunteered their time to photograph, gather information, update social media (because Southern Media was soooo helpful and current). I hope we all remember to thank the SES, Rural Fire Service and other Volunteers, a special thanks, and "sorry" to the Cawarral Rural Fire Service for assisting with the Debbie cleanup and chain saw crews up north, to return back home and assist with the clean up of Rockhampton, and to have their fuel stolen from all their vehicles parked at their Fire Shed, while in Rockhampton.

The Alton Downs chopper pilot Cameron Parker moved cattle through rising flood waters. Cameron, who trains and breeds performance horses, spent days aerial mustering cattle off the Fitzroy River

through tributaries north of Yaamba to higher ground. This was not the pilot's first flood muster either, with Cameron having moved cattle through flood waters in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, often mustering along the Belyando, Mackenzie and Fitzroy rivers. These were awesome photos and really showed the volume of water coming through.

Neil Richardson Surveyor for your contributions of photographs and information. It was great to see the flood from 'our' perspective out here in the bush, and not the usual Quay St, or Fitzroy Bridge or Airport flood photos. His photos are available on Alton Downs/Ridgeland and Surrounding Areas Noticeboard Face Book Page.

A massive Thank You to the Acton Family, for allowing public access to the locals of our area, to travel through their private property, to access Gracemere and Rockhampton. I know a lot of us were ready and stocked up at home with necessities and essentials, although it was great to know that if we had to go to town, Doctors, or other urgent needs that it was made possible by this generous Family.

Reminder to all that to improve our lifestyle, notify your Local Member and Council of any issues that occurred during the floods, NBN, power loss, road closures, and roads to be fixed.

*Photo: Pink Lily 2017 — Neil Richardson*



**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.

# ANZAC Day 25th April

## Anzac Day Dawn Service

starting at 4:28am

on 25th April 2017

will be held at Alton Downs Hall

The service will be followed by a gunfire breakfast.

The Alton Downs ANZAC memorial was constructed on the Alton Downs State School grounds on Ridgeland Road. It was designed in the form of a broken column 12ft. high and surmounted by a laurel wreath, of white Ulam marble. On the four faces were the names of those who enlisted, those who made the supreme sacrifice, those who were wounded, and those who returned, respectively.

The cost of the memorial was £180. The memorial was unveiled on the 16th October 1920.

After the school closed down the Memorial was relocated to the Alton Downs Hall grounds circa 1964.

In May 1921 the trustees of the Alton Downs Hall agreed to accept a war trophy from the Home and Territories Department. The agreement included to pay for the transport charges from Brisbane, to arrange a simple ceremony, at which it would be formally taken over and to house and preserve the trophy in safe custody.



The war trophy is a surrendered heavy water cooled machine gun, 7.92mm calibre German Maschinengewehr 08 (MG08), with a firing rate of approx. 500 rounds per minute. Its practical range was estimated at some 2,000 metres up to an extreme range of 3,600 metres.

National Archives of Australia

Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service. The spirit of Anzac, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

This year's guest speaker at the Anzac Day Dawn Service is a decorated local Vietnam veteran who served on the front line of Operation BRIBIE.

The 17th of February 2017 (this year) was the 50th anniversary of Operation Bribie. Eight Australians died and twenty-seven were wounded in this significant battle of the Vietnam War.



The photograph was taken in the morning, some hours before the platoon took part in Operation Bribie. Left to right: Sergeant Mervyn McCullough, Second Lieutenant John O'Halloran, Private Michael Nichols, Private Quoc Tuan Nguyen, Private Richard Beverley Odendahl.

Sergeant McCullough was later wounded in action during the operation. 2nd Lt O'Halloran was awarded Mention in Despatches (MID) and Pte Odendahl the Military Medal (MM). Image courtesy John O'Halloran and Australian War Memorial.

National Archives of Australia

# Who Am I

My husband (Simon Ham) and I (Kristen Ham) moved here in late 2013 when we found our little farm up here in the hills of Ridglands. So far we love this close community full of long term and whole of life residents.

We have two young children (2 year old Jethro and 6 month old Summer Lily) and look forward to sending them to the local Ridglands school where I recently had the good fortune to volunteer as a teacher aide in the prep/1/2 classroom.

The children there were sweet, enthusiastic and well-mannered and the teachers really put the effort into each child and are experienced and competent. I even learned a few things I had long forgotten about the English language. It is a great little country school that genuinely nurtures it's students and I think it will be a great start for our kids when the time comes. It was a pleasure spending time there and I am grateful they allowed me the experience.

My husband is originally from Augathella and has been working with cattle and horses in QLD and the NT all his life. He has been doing contract mustering for most of his career though has spent the last few years operating machinery and I am originally from the northern beaches in Sydney and moved up here for a breath of fresh country air.

We are very happy with our local community and are not planning on leaving it so if you spot us around please do come and say hi and if either of us can help in a professional way we are more than happy to assist with any enquiry you may have.

## BIG COLOUR WORKS

sponsor the printing of  
*Around the Ridges*  
every second month for free.

# THANK YOU!

## Easy Banana Cake:

This one bowl , easy banana cake is a great way to use up you leftover bananas.

The simple, sweet, fluffy vanilla icing takes this recipe from regular to a real treat.



### Ingredients

- 3 large ripe bananas
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda

### For the Icing

- 1/4 cup of softened butter
- 2 cups icing sugar

### Instructions

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, mix the bananas, sugar, egg and butter until well combined.
2. Add the flour, salt and baking soda, and stir until well combined, but being careful not to over-mix.
3. Bake in a greased 8 x 8 baking dish at 350, for around 40 min, until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.
4. After the cake is cool, combine the icing ingredients in a mixer and stir slowly until well combined, and then at higher speed until light and fluffy. Top cooled cake with icing, and enjoy.

*Around the Ridges and a bit beyond* is a community and school newsletter. Stories, notices, poems, anecdotes and historical memoirs need to be submitted by the 11th of every month — if you have a special event, allow a two months lead in time.

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# COMMUNITY UPDATE



## Stitch and Chat Group

11th and 25th April  
9.30am

QCWA Hall Ridgелands  
4934 5125

## Alton Downs Dump Hours

September to April  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and  
Sunday: 3pm - 6pm

## ALTON DOWNS HALL

Indoor Bowls | 7:30pm | 8 April

Cent Sale | 1:30pm | 22 April

Hall Meeting | 7:30pm | 26 April

Card Night | 7:30pm | 20 May

Dance | 7.30pm | 30 June

Trivia Night | 7:30pm | 21 July

Card Night | 7:30pm | 21 October

## Ridgелands Show

### 3 June 2017

**\*\*Giant Pumpkin Competition\*\***

Have you planted your giant pumpkins for the pumpkin completion at the Ridgелands Show on the 3 June.

1<sup>st</sup> prize \$100.00

## Alton Downs Pony Club

Meeting 1st Tuesday  
of the month 7.30pm  
Alton Downs Hall

## QCWA Ridgелands Branch

Meeting 1st Wednesday evry  
month commencing at 9.30am  
QCWA Ridgелands Hall  
Contact Joyce 4934 5120

The QCWA will be holding a  
Mother's Day afternoon tea on  
Sunday 7 May at 1.30 p.m. at the  
Ridgелands Hall.  
Delicious afternoon tea.

QCWA Ridgелands Branch will be  
holding an Afternoon Tea  
and multi draw raffle on  
Sunday 10 September at 1.30 p.m.  
in aid of the  
Capricorn Helicopter Service.  
Please support this most worthy cause.

## Ridgелands & District Sporting & Agricultural Association Inc

Meetings are held on the  
2nd  
Wednesday of the month,  
commencing at 7.30 p.m.  
at the Ridgелands Show  
grounds.

Next meeting 12th April.



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to all our local residents  
celebrating their  
special day in  
April



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Eden Chippendale  
Sandy Gorle**

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