With the festive season well and truly upon us, this edition of ‘Around the Ridges’ will focus on some of the great Christmas activities on offer in the region. Don’t forget to check on elderly neighbours at this time of year or those that live alone - it doesn’t take much to build a community that cares.

The Ridgelands State School will be holding their Christmas Celebration and Redback Awards Night on Wednesday 7 December starting at 5.30pm. The P & C will be running a sausage sizzle on the night. Come along and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of local school students.

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we are already over half way through the term. These last two weeks have flown by.

Over the term students have participated in the Australia’s biggest school initiative, Music: Count Us In. In 2015, more than 550,000 students from over 2,100 schools participated nationwide. Music: Count Us In brings teachers, parents, students and the music industry together in celebration of music and music education. 2016 is the 10th anniversary! All schools are encouraged to get involved. Music: Count Us In exists to advocate for improved access to music education for all students across Australia.

Our Equestrian Team competed at the annual Inter-school gymkhana at the Alton Downs Polocrosse Club. Our students looked stunning in their red, white and black uniform. I am proud to say we were successful in winning the March past trophy.

Over the day, I was privileged to see all of our team competing with pride and great sportsmanship, even though it was a miserable, wet, windy and extremely cold day.

We were very successful in the various age group competitions with the majority of our students placing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Paddison for her time and effort in organising this event. I would also like to thank all the parents for encouraging and allowing students to represent our school. I am a very proud principal to have such talented students in our school.

Our Tackle6 program saw our upper class working with Jamie. Our first tackle was on communication, our second tackle was on leadership and the third tackle was on literacy. Students participated in activities to promote learning in these areas while also tackling teamwork, respect and attendance.

We have now began work on our Quadrennial School Review. This happens every four years before we begin work on our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. In the review process we need to make recommendations on what will be addressed over the coming four years. We are wanting to maintain our momentum/ success with student Reading and Writing improvement as well as maintaining our behaviour and expectation standards. We would also like to place more emphasis on our Parent and Community Engagement. If you would like to see the school focus on other areas, please feel free to send an email detailing your thoughts so we can table them for discussion.

We are moving into a very busy time of the year. Have a wonderful fortnight.

Yours in education,

I am a very proud principal to have such talented students in our school.
BOILED FRUIT CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients:
500g Mixed Fruit
1/2 cup brandy or rum
1 cup water
125g butter
2 tablespoons golden syrup
1 cup dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 tablespoon boiling water
2 x 70g eggs
1 cup self raising flour
1 cup plain flour
1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Method:
Soak fruit overnight in brandy or rum.
Place fruit, water, butter, golden syrup and sugar in a saucepan.
Slowly bring to the boil then remove from heat.
Add bicarbonate of soda mixed with 1 tablespoon of boiling water.
Cool for 15 minutes. Add lightly beaten eggs mixing thoroughly.
Fold in sifted flours, spices and vanilla essence.
Place in a 20cm round or square tin. Bake at 150 degrees for 1 ¼ to 1 ½ hours . Cool in tin.

Always remember: If you’re alone in the kitchen and you drop the lamb, you can always just pick it up. Who’s going to know?
Julia Childs

Congrats to Anna Reeve and Ben on their recent engagement.

I got a $5 note for Christmas, but the cat ate it.
Never mind, it’s always good to keep something in the kitty.

The Hall School and St. Lukes Anglican Parish
CHRISTMAS FAIR
Friday 2 December
*Carols and Christmas songs
Concert starts at 5.30pm
*Turning on Christmas lights @ 7pm
*All welcome

PHONE: 07 49 341 473
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-month lead in time.

We love our sponsors — and hope that you do too. Please support them and buy locally!

**CALLING ALL KEEN GARDENERS**

If you want to get ready for the next year’s Ridgeland Show, start preparing your vegie patch now for the Giant Pumpkin Competition! There are some excellent tips available online to inspire gardeners of all ages.

Check out:
- [www.abc.net.au/gardening](http://www.abc.net.au/gardening)

**HUGH CHIPPENDALE**

(Garnant resident of 57 years)

Two great things about where you live?
A friendly community and great neighbours - as well as a general willingness of everyone to help others

What do you do for a living?
I’m ‘Mr Fixit’! A retired power linesman

What skill would you like to learn?
Computer skills to better my use of computing

**PAT POINTING**

(Alton Downs resident of 35 years)

Two great things about where you live?
Easterly and southerly views (and great neighbours)
We live on the edge of town as well as being in the country - a great combination

What does a perfect day look like for you?
No aches and pains - a cup of tea (or several) and a comfortable bed

What skill would you like to learn?
Another language, preferably Spanish

Two keen gardeners:

**LEON HERDEN** (Alton Downs resident of 9 years)

Two great things about where you live?
It’s nice and quiet - and a good distance from town

Your greatest passion in life?
Managing a few stock on the hobby farm, about 40 head of cattle is ideal.

If you were down to your last $10?
Spend it on a few ice-creams!

What skill would you like to learn?
Flying - a pilot’s life would be great.

**MEET THE NEIGHBOURS**

It’s always interesting to meet new people in the community. These locals were brave enough to share some insights into their way of life in the bush.

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My present age. Life and experience helps to lead a fulfilling existence

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RIDGELANDS TENNIS CLUB NEWS
If all your normal sports fixtures have come to the end of the season, why not consider dusting off the tennis racquet and joining social night tennis games at the Ridgelands courts? Contact the Club Secretary Karen Salmon on 0429 968 771 for further details. All skills levels welcome.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
MUSIC BOWL
Saturday 10 December
Gates open 5pm
Concert starts at 7pm

Ridgeland & District Sporting & Agricultural Association
14 December 2016 │ 7.30pm
Ridgelands Showgrounds
All welcome

ALTON DOWNS PONY CLUB MEETING
6 December
Alton Downs Hall │ 7.30pm

QCWA Ridgelands
Meeting │ 7 December │ 9.30am
QCWA Ridgelands Hall

CHRISTMAS KARAOKE
in aid of Ridgelands Hall Funds
Saturday 3 December 2016
6:30pm
RIDGELANDS HALL
BARBECUE MEAL
with a variety of accompaniments.
* Adults $10 with a lucky meal ticket
* Primary School children $5
Sweets will be served for a cost of $3
Parents may place a gift (suggested limit $10) under the Christmas Tree with your child’s name attached. Santa will arrive to present the gifts.
GOLD COIN ENTRY
BAR OPERATING
RAFFLE and AUCTION
SEE YOU THERE FOR A GOOD NIGHT OUT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to all our local residents celebrating their special day this month-
Robyn O’Neill
David Fry
Judy Stanke
Diane Roberts
Rosie Oates
David Foxwell

FARM BUTCHER
Slaughter and butchering of cattle, pigs and sheep. All processed in a refrigerated mobile butcher shop, Mince, sausages, corned meat and rolled roasts, all cut to your requirement. Cryovac of whole cuts available. Please call Jamie for an obligation free quote. PH. 0429 675 744

Local Hairdresser
with over 25 years of hair experience located in McKenzie Road, Alton Downs
Haircutting and highlighting for Men │ Women │ Children
Call Madonna on Ph: 0429 340 294

Grant Christoff Landscaping
Need work done?
All aspects of landscaping including retainer walls, paving, irrigation, turfing, fencing and entertainment areas.
Ph: 0419 179 839
BSA: 1080766

BIG COLOUR WORKS
sponsors the printing of Around the Ridges every second month for free.
Like their Facebook page and keep up to date with some great deals.

AUSTRALIA DAY @ ALTON DOWNS POLOCROSSE GROUNDS
26 January 2017