

Around the Ridges

and a bit beyond

Issue 129/ December Extra 2014 Email aroundtheridges@hotmail.com Fax 49 345565 Phone 49 3

We wish you a Merry Christmas, We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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 12th 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.

On behalf of the Around the Ridges Newsletter committee we would like to wish our Community a wonderful Christmas and a happy, safe and healthy New Year. In some parts of the world they dream of a white Christmas, but in our community we dream of a green one and for some of us our dream has come true. Please spare a thought and say a prayer for those who have not received any rain yet, especially out West. Thank you for your continue support in 2014. We would like to share some history of Christmas in Australia and we can all be thankful that we live in the year 2014 and not 1787.

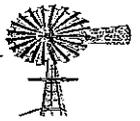
On the way to Australia Christmas in 1787 was when the "First Fleet" of 1,400 convicts, marine guards, civilian officials, and their wives and children was still on the South Seas, 24 days from landing. Rum played an important role in the First Fleeter's first Christmas on land the following year, in 1788. Convicts were given extra portions of the drink to go with their salted beef or pork and biscuits.

The first official Christmas Down Under was celebrated on the 25th December, 1788 at Sydney Cove by Reverend Johnson. After the service, Governor Arthur Phillips and his officers dined heartily, toasting King George III and his family. But for the majority of the first white inhabitants...the convicts....there was no change to their regular menu of bread rations only. The only Christmas goodwill which seemed to have been displayed was to Michael Dennison. He was a convict who stole a pound of flour from Martha Pugh. He was sentenced to 200 lashes by the whip. But since it was Christmas, only 150 were delivered.

The first record of a Christmas Day picnic in Australia dates back 1806, when Captain John Macarthur and his wife invited their friends to dine with them at the "charming rural spot" of Cockle Bay, now the Darling Harbour tourist and commercial centre. Parrot pie is first recorded as hitting the Christmas table in newly established Adelaide in 1836. It was served with plum pudding in 100-degree temperatures.

A few years later, a Melbourne newspaper was more positive, reporting on what has since become Australia's main Christmas tradition - going to the beach.





CHRISTMAS SLICE

- 1/2 cup self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 1/4 cups desiccated coconut
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 125g butter, melted
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 100g red glaze cherries
- 100g green glaze cherries
- Icing sugar to dust



Method:

Preheat oven to moderate, 180 C. Grease 18cm x 28cm slice pan. Sift flours together into a bowl. Blend in coconut and sugar. Make a well in the dry ingredients. Add butter, milk and eggs. Fold chopped glaze cherries through. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 20-30 minutes until cooked when tested with a skewer. Cool in pan before slicing into squares. Serve dusted with icing sugar.

Life Membership Presentation to KEN STEWART

During the evening, the President of the Hall Committee, Rob Chippendale presented a life membership award to Ken Stewart. Ken was recognised for sixty years' service to the Hall Committee. For thirty years he held the position as President and is currently Vice President. Congratulations Ken !!!! Well done.

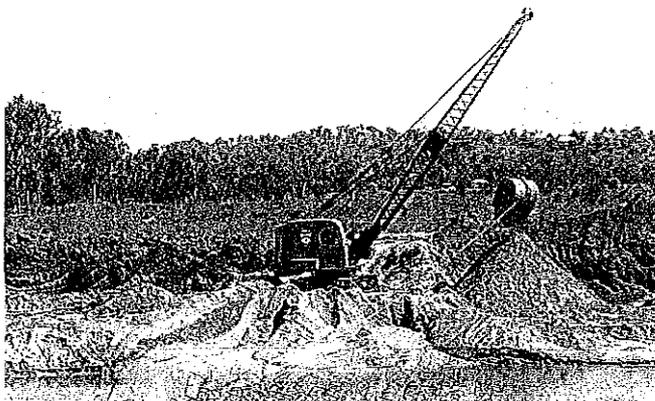
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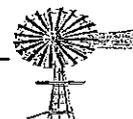
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Mini Fruit Cake ----- Serves 8-10

1kg mixed fruit
 3 cups (750ml) fruit juice
 3 cups (525g) self-raising flour



Soak the dried fruit in the juice overnight (this makes the fruit plump and juicy). Preheat oven to 125C / 250F. Stir flour into soaked fruit and mix well. Spoon mixture into 12 patty cake liners and bake in a muffin tray for 45 minutes to 1 hour in the bottom of the oven or until cooked through. To test you can insert a skewer, if it comes out clean it's done. It will depend on your oven and how big you make the cakes so keep an eye on them. Remember low and slow is the go! Remove from the oven and let cool in the muffin /patty cake tin on a wire rack. Turn the mini cakes out onto a serving platter and peel off the patty cake liners.

You can also place cooked mini fruit cakes in an air tight container where this cake will keep nicely for 3-4 weeks.

Optional: Add a shot of your favourite tippie, sherry, brandy, rum or Grand Marnier.

Decorate as you wish with Cherries, nuts, candied ginger or leave plain.

Wrap as you see fit as gifts for friends and family and write a heartfelt message as a card.

\$200 Funding 'Young Athlete Assistance Program' - Get in the Game money aims to help our KIDS excel in sport

This Program assists young athletes in Queensland who have, in the last 6 months, competed or officiated at a State or State School Championship, National or National School Championship or International Championship. Go to the Dept of national parks Recreation website

<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/overview/young-athlete.html> to find out more details

Christmas Recipe
 Cup of Love
 Cup of Patience
 Cup of Kindness
 Cup of Goodness
 Cup of Faithfulness
 Cup of Gentleness
 Cup of Self-Control
 Cup of Joy
 Cup of Peace

Mix ingredients together and have a loving and happy Christmas.

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.



School Holiday Activities

Family Fun **Wet Play Area** at War Memorial Aquatic Centre Sth Rocky opens from 10.30 am

Electronic Playground at Kershaw Garden will light up from 18th December.

Meet the **Otters** at **Rocky Zoo** at the new exhibit from 16 Dec.

Rockhampton Art Gallery Snappy Art Space – featuring crocodiles from 10am daily

Australia Day old fashioned fun at Alton Downs Polocrosse Club from mid-afternoon 26th January

Free **Lego Movie** at Gracemere Conaghan Park 7pm 16th January



A Snow Free Christmas Zone

Merry Christmas from Australia,
The Great brown land down under.
Where Christmas is spent at the beach or the pool,
And we're all just left to wonder.

Bout the pictures we see of trees covered in snow,
People huddled by fires to keep warm
Of far off lands where blizzards blow,
To us Aussies this isn't the norm.

Where the man in red wears warm thermal undies,
and his suit is all fleecy and lined.
We wouldn't be you in a month of Sundays,
Our Christmas is one of a kind.

As we lie by the beach eating salad and ice creams,
Getting sunburnt and swatting at flies
We wouldn't swap you in your wildest dreams,
An Aussie Christmas is one of life's highs

What's happening this month?

Events

QCWA - Ridgeland Branch meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday every month, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

Stitch and Chat Group - Meets on the 2nd & 4th 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 11th February commencing at 7.30 p.m. at the Ridgeland Show grounds.

Community Notices

Alton Downs Hall Committee

To book community hall please contact Booking Officer, Sid Hoare on 49 341147. Alternatively call, T Hoare on 49 34 1493 or J Chippendale 49 345120.

Celebrations

If you are having a birthday in January we would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday: - Andrew Hunt, Stephaine Ruddick, Jacqueline Fossett and Robyn Edmestone.

Christmas Karaoke Thank You.

The Ridgeland Hall Committee would like to thank the members of the general public for their help on the night of our Annual Christmas Karaoke. This gesture is greatly appreciated by our committee members.

Thanks also to the public for their attendance and the Karaoke participants for the entertainment. We also offer thanks for the generous donations received for the auction, the auctioneer and the buyers.

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