

'Round the Ridges



Free bi-monthly
publication
for Ridgewood,
Carters Ridge,
and surrounds

~
An initiative of the
Ridgewood Hall
Committee since 1984

~
Aug/Sept 2024

You are invited to...

Ridgewood's Annual

Pig on the Spit

FRIDAY 30th AUGUST, 6pm

The Pig on the Spit is a great night that brings everyone together.

Join us for this fun and fantastic event for all ages. Catch up with the locals and get some magnificent roasted pork on your fork at our Annual Pig on a Spit on Friday 30th August.



More information on page 24

TICKETS LIMITED: BOOK YOURS TODAY



Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Photo Fair



Friday June 28 was the 2024 Photo Fair and we had a fantastic turnout. Thank you to every person who made this happen, the committee, attendees, our sponsors, and our amazingly talented photographers.

View our winners on page 13



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Cooroy | Coolum Beach
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Nicola Chaffey
0405 709 101



WHAT'S ON 'ROUND THE RIDGES

Community Calendar

August

Every Sunday

Imbil Markets every Sunday 8am-1pm

Sunday 11 August

Ridgewood Hall Bi- monthly Sundowners, 4-6pm

Friday 23 August

Community Working Bee, Ridgewood Hall, 9am

Sunday 25 August

Kenilworth Classic Car Show, Kenilworth Showgrounds, 8am-2pm

Friday 30 August

Pig on the SPIT, Ridgewood Hall, Ridgewood Hall, 6pm

Saturday 31 August

The Hub at the Ridge Community Music + Pizza Night, 4pm-7.30pm

Saturday 31 August

Twilight Markets, Mrs Browns Diner

September

Every Sunday

Imbil Markets every Sunday 8am-1pm

Friday 27 September

Monthly Community BBQ. Ridgewood Hall, 6pm

Saturday 28 September

Twilight Markets, Mrs Browns Diner

Saturday 28 September

The Hub at the Ridge Community Music + Pizza Night, 4pm-7.30pm

Do you have a community event to advertise?

Community Events are free to advertise in the Round the Ridges magazine. Please submit your event details and images by the 20th of each month (our issues are bi-monthly) prior to the month of release to rtr.editor@gmail.com.

ROUND THE RIDGES

A community publication designed to keep residents informed, promote local events, business, or trades, and stay in touch.

RTR is published bi-monthly.

Contributions close on the **10th of the month** prior to publication. Issues are distributed in the first week of the publication month.

Download digital copies:
www.roundtheridges.com/newsletter

For advertising or articles:
rtr.editor@gmail.com

Thinking of Advertising?

AD TYPE	RATE PER ISSUE (paid annually)
FULL BACK PAGE COLOUR (taken)	\$40
FULL INSIDE FRONT COVER COLOUR (taken)	\$30
FULL INSIDE BACK COVER COLOUR	\$30
FULL PAGE B/W	\$20
HALF PAGE B/W	\$15
QUARTER PAGE B/W	\$10

The production of **Round the Ridges** is supported by a Community Grant from



RIDGEWOOD HALL HIRE

The Ridgewood Hall, rich in character and history is a great place to get-togethers. It is affordable and has excellent facilities, including a recently renovated kitchen, quality crockery, cutlery and glassware (for 50 settings), bar, ceiling fans for summer and gas heaters for winter.

Private functions for locals - \$100 hire + Bond

Private functions for those living outside the RTR distribution area- \$250 + Bond

Profit making functions- \$250 + Bond

Not for Profit- Free up to three hours, then \$50 per day

Hourly rate- \$15 per hour

Community fund raisers- rates on application

Bond payments (\$250) are fully refundable once follow-up inspection is completed.

Bookings and enquiries- Charles 5447 9179 (leave a message) or email bollendorff@aapt.net.au



HUB



@ THE RIDGE

- Dine in or Take away
- First Batch coffee - locally roasted in Noosa
- Healthy home made meals, ready to heat & eat!
- Home made scones
- Cakes, muffins and biscuits
- Milk & bread
- Fruit & veg
- Ice
- Convenience shop
- Free customer Wi-Fi

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	7am – 2pm
WEDNESDAY	7am – 2pm
THURSDAY	7am – 2pm
FRIDAY	7am – 7:30pm
SATURDAY	7am – 7:30pm
SUNDAY	7am – 2pm

(07) 5447 9326

8 Jubilee Road, Carters Ridge

Hubarooney@hotmail.com

A LITTLE NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello community! I hope you are all rugged up keeping warm.

I'm sad to say but this will be my last edition as editor of the Round the Ridges magazine. My own work has gotten quite busy and I no longer have the capacity I used to. The team are currently looking for a new editor so if you think that is you, please let Chris or any of the committee members know.

I can't believe we are now halfway through the year and almost through winter. Although, I think some of my plants are looking forward to some warmer weather, especially my rosella tree that has gone into hibernation.

We had our annual Photo Fair last month, and although we couldn't make it, I heard it was a great event and many of the community turned up.

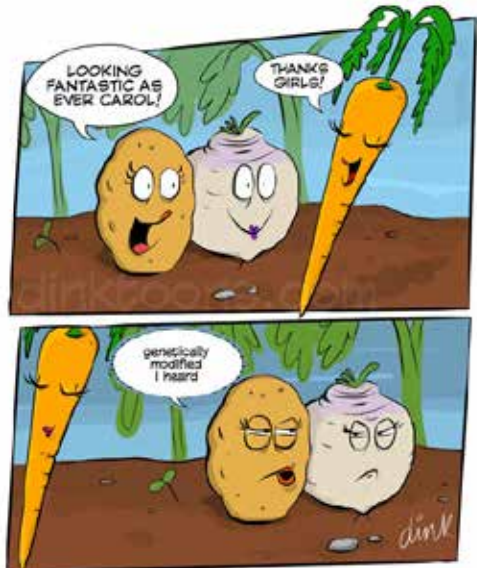
I just wanted to give a big thanks to Ridgewood Hall committee, especially Lyn Adams - who has been my dedicated proofer the past year. I also want to thank you - the community. I've gotten to know quite a lot of you over the past year and thank you very much for your contributions to this magazine. This magazine is created by community for community and is a great tool to keep us all connected.

Well that's it for me for now.

See you 'round the Ridges

Naomi - RTR Editor
rtr.editor@gmail.com

If you're interested in becoming the next Editor for Round the Ridges Magazine, please email rtr.editor@gmail.com or contact Chris on 0414986582



President's Report



I've heard it said that 'Things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out'. You might not think that this holds much water but I am sure if you think back to the times in your life when you faced some dilemma, you may have used this to sort things out for the good. I have found that it seems to work except when dealing with government institutions! I am sure that every one of us could tell a story on this topic!

Well, June and July, two of our winter months are nearly past memories now and while we have August to go, we have not experienced too many frosty mornings so Fridgewood and Carters Fridge have not yet lived up to their names of past. Roll on Spring, I say!!

Some sad news is that we are losing our Round the Ridges Editor, Naomi Wengier, as she needs to focus more on her own business which is growing rapidly. Naomi has been our editor for a little over a year now and has done an amazing job in a difficult volunteer role. We wish her well with her growing business and look forward to seeing her around the traps!

To add to this, we unfortunately will be losing Lyn Adams as a long term Committee member. Lyn has looked after our Ridgewood Website and social postings on the Carters Ridge Ridgewood Facebook page for many years now and her efforts have been greatly appreciated. Lyn will be focussing more on her busy life on her very productive farm! Again, we wish her the very best for the future and we might just see her around the same traps as Naomi! This brings me to another point as we will now be looking for a new editor who will be part of an

editorial team to spread the load of producing the magazine. If this may be something that would interest you, we would love to talk with you. Please drop me a line on **0414 986 582** or email me on **ckirkpatrick330@gmail.com**.

At our last Committee Meeting we expressed the need to reach out to the community for some new committee members to help us move into the future with some new ideas and events that we are planning. I can promise you that it will not be an onerous task to be a committee member and your thoughts and ideas will be keenly sought to help us promote our fabulous hall. If you would like to know more, you can contact me on the number and email shown above.

Several months ago, I approached Helen, the manager of the Cooroy RSL to see about applying for one of their annual donations they give back to the community. I received the great news a month or so later that we had been donated \$2000 to assist with the publication of the Round the Ridges magazine. On the 17th of June, our Committee Secretary Doug Wiseman attended a presentation night at the RLS where he was presented with the \$2000 cheque. As a committee we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Cooroy RSL for this donation as every little helps.

Our hall stands on a piece of land which could be considered no-man's land as the council does not have our verge on a mowing schedule and consequently it is up to us to keep the overgrowth under control. If you have driven past the hall

lately you will note that it looks amazing! It has had a real haircut thanks to Michael Norman and his team who spent hours mowing, slashing and clearing to end up with a fantastic result. We would really like to see if we can keep it looking like this into the future so regular Working Bees will be mentioned online and in the RTR.

Our annual Photo Fair took place over the month of June and thanks to Adele Frew and her tireless team, culminated in a fantastic Awards Night at the end of June. I went home with a huge smile on my dial as it was such a great night- great food, drinks and really great company! Read the article in this RTR and see all the winners.

On the 30th August we are holding our Annual Pig on a Spit evening.

Last year was a cracker and this year promises to be better. We are capping the attendance at 100 so you will need to be quick to save your seat. You can reserve your seat by emailing me at ckirkpatrick330@gmail.com Can you please let me know the names of everyone you register and let me know their ages as well?

Due to price increases we have had to increase our prices slightly:

Kids under 5 will eat free
Kids from 5 to 12- \$10/head
Kids 13 to Adult \$15/head

Chris Kirkpatrick

President of the Ridgewood Community Hall Committee

2024 Ridgewood Committee Meeting Dates

Round the Ridges and Ridgewood Hall are run by a team of very passionate volunteers. Each month we meet together to discuss content for the next RTR magazine, community initiatives, events and other ways to support our locals. We are fortunate to have our beautiful heritage Ridgewood Hall to get together and come up with new events for the community.



On 2nd February 1935 a public meeting was held at Lowe's corner and it was resolved to build a Hall in the District on land made available by the generosity of Mr Peter MacKellar.

- 1 August
- 5 September
- 3 October (AGM)
- 7 November
- 5 December



Around the Halls

Gheerulla Hall

Tuesdays Qi Gong 5:45—6:30pm

Wednesdays Line Dancing 9-10:30am

Gold coin donation

Thursdays Exercise Class 9-10am

Sponsored by Sunshine Coast Council \$5

Saturdays Yoga 8-9:30am \$5

Belli Park Hall

Monday Homeschool Drop Off

Tuesday Pilates 6:30pm

Wednesday Pilates 6:30am; Yoga 5:30pm
Ukelele Jam 8:30am FREE (fortnightly)

Thursday Wine Time 5:30pm (first Thurs of month)

Friday Crop Swap 10am (first Fri of month)

North Arm Hall

Wednesdays Physie Ladies class
9.30am and 6.45pm

Physie and Dance Juniors and teens
4-6.45pm

AcroDance 4:45pm

Thursdays Physie and Dance Juniors
and Teens 3.45pm-7.30pm

AcroDance Teens 5:45pm

Fridays Physie and Dance class Ages
2-72+

Saturdays Yoga 6:45am

Physie Ladies class 2:15pm

Physie and Dance Juniors and teens
9-2:15pm

AcroDance Juniors 10am and
12:15pm

Ridgewood Hall

Thursday Yoga 9.30am - 11am

Friday Community BBQ (last Friday of the month)

Sunday Sundowners (2nd Sunday of the month)

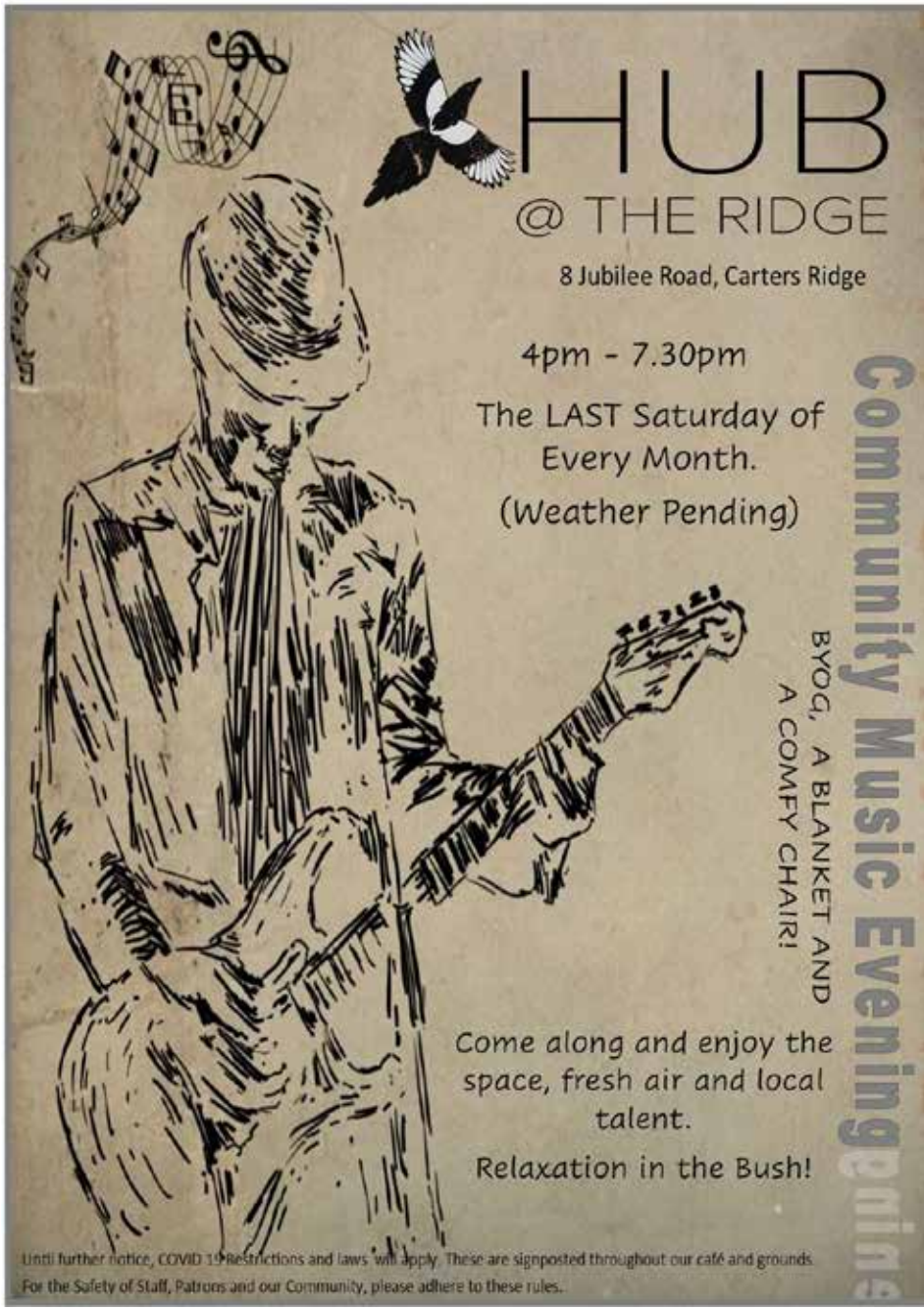
*Don't Miss the
Ridgewood Hall's
Monthly
Community BBQ,*

(Last Friday of every month)



SUNDAY SUNDOWNERS
(2nd Sunday of the month)

The perfect way to end the weekend! Catch up with the neighbours, and meet new ones. Locals and visitors are welcome. See you there!



HUB @ THE RIDGE

8 Jubilee Road, Carters Ridge

4pm - 7.30pm

The LAST Saturday of
Every Month.

(Weather Pending)

Community Music Evening
BYOG, A BLANKET AND
A COMFY CHAIR!

Come along and enjoy the
space, fresh air and local
talent.

Relaxation in the Bush!

Until further notice, COVID 19 Restrictions and laws will apply. These are signposted throughout our café and grounds.
For the Safety of Staff, Patrons and our Community, please adhere to these rules.

RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Very quiet around the region over the last few months with only one callout for the Ridgewood Rural Fire Brigade.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank John Sparrow for his lengthy service to the Ridgewood Rural Fire Brigade. John is stepping down as First Officer and having a well-earned rest from running the brigade. John will still be a valued member of the brigade and I'm sure his wealth of local knowledge will be utilised this coming fire season

You can also contact the Ridgewood Rural Fire Service on 0429 827 275 for fire safety advise.

Don't forget if you need to complete a burn pile on your property you need a permit.

Mr. Victor Hill is the local Fire Warden and can be contacted on **5447 9288** at 7.30am or 7.30pm only to apply for the permit.

You can also contact the Ridgewood Rural Fire Service on **0429 827 275** for fire safety advise.

Stay Safe everyone - Ask Questions if you don't know.

Russell Webber - First Officer Ridgewood Rural Fire Brigade



**RURAL FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION
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Support Us - Art Union Tickets or Donations

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**Major Prize is a Toyota
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ART UNION 98

Entries Close
Monday,
2nd September 2024

Price Draw Date
Tuesday,
10th September 2024

**Plus, one of thirteen (13)
Consolation Prizes**

Favourite Prizes including Breville coffee machine with 2 years product care, Dreamo robot vac & mop with 2 years product care, and Ninja dual air fryer with 2 years product care, delivered.

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A Coles Group & Myer gift card**

Value at \$500 RRP!

To be eligible to enter our bonus draw your secret payment needs to be purchased by Credit Card or have returned your completed entry form within 2 weeks from the date on the form.



THANK YOU JOHN!

FROM YOUR COMMUNITY



The Ridgewood Fire Brigade is an integral part of our community. Though we seldom have to call upon the service, it is always good to know that it is ready to come to our aid at any time of the day or night.

John Sparrow has been a guiding and leading force in our Brigade. He became First officer in 2006, with only a short break, he has continued in that position ever since. It was with much regret that

we had to accept his resignation from that position at our May Brigade Meeting. He assures us that he will still be an active member and mentor of the Brigade. He will also remain my acting Fire Warden at times when I am unavailable.

John has been ably assisted by his wife Ruth, who has been our secretary for some time. She has indicated that, at the next AGM in September, she will be stepping down, so we will be looking for a new secretary. [Come on volunteers—volunteer!]

On behalf of the brigade and the community I would like to publicly thank John for all his hard work and enthusiasm that he has given to the community.

John and Ruth all the best for more time to together looking for GPS secret locations.

Written by Victor Hill, Fire Warden

Russell Webber is now your first officer, so he is the person that you must call when complying with the conditions of your permit in the future. The phone number is the same.



Record entries, amazing talent at the 2024 Photo Fair

The Ridgewood Hall Photo Fair has been hailed a resounding success with a record number of entries showcasing the remarkable talent of amateur photographers from throughout the district and beyond.

Hall committee president Chris Kirkpatrick said this year's fair featured 195 entries, an increase from previous years, while the awards night on Friday, June 28 drew a large crowd keen to admire the range of photographs across six categories from majestic hinterland scenery to rural life, candid portraits, humorous images and striking wildlife shots.

Visitors not only enjoyed the photographic displays but also hot soups, bread and beverages from local vendors, as well as live music making it a welcoming and warm occasion on a mid-winter evening.

Chris attributed the surge in entries to the growing reputation of the Photo Fair as a unique "community country hall cultural experience" and the generosity of sponsors who contributed to a bumper prize pool including cash, vouchers and products.

"We were thrilled with the number of entries and the quality of photos submitted this year - it is great to see so many people passionate about photography and proud to share their work," he said. "Our judges, Rick Sherwin and Bob Walpole, remarked that they themselves would have been proud to display some of the entries.

"It keeps getting bigger and better every year and is becoming a cherished event on the Hall calendar. Once again we are most grateful for the support of Noosa council and local businesses - it simply wouldn't be as successful without the

generosity of our sponsors and the hard work of the fair committee."

Prompted by a local friend's encouragement, Greg Miles entered the competition for the first time and walked away with a handful of category prizes and the title of "Overall Champion" for his series of stunning wildlife photographs.

Two of the standout moments though were the announcements of the junior champion, 15-year-old Guy Griffith, and Madison Good whose captivating cloud shot was praised for its technical excellence.

"This year's fair has set a new benchmark," Chris said. "We are excited to see how it continues to grow and evolve."

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors:

- Noosa Shire Council
- Bendigo Bank
- Dingo Creek
- Wild Barrel
- Jeremiah's Crust
- Iron X Pole
- Onpoint Roofing





2024 Photo Fair Results

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINNERS

Overall Champion: Greg Miles

Open Section



CATEGORY	1st	2nd	3rd	HIGHLY COMMEDED	COMMEDED
ANIMALS	Greg Miles	Greg Miles	David Cramb	Julie Hemsall	Julie Hemsall
CHILDREN	Undine Dam Huis	Jill Hunter	Jill Hunter	Spencer Brinkley	Undine Dam Huis
CLOUDS	Madison Good	Adele Frew	Jan Thompson	David Cramb	Lauren Deagon
HUMOROUS	Graeme Wilson	Graeme Wilson	Julie Hemsall	Undine Dam Huis	David Cramb
MACRO	Undine Dam Huis	Julie Hemsall	Jill Hunter	Julie Hemsall & Greg Miles	Greg Miles
LIFESTYLE	Undine Dam Huis	Graeme Wilson	Mark Prior	Julie Hemsall	Jill Hunter

Junior Section

CATEGORY	1st	2nd	3rd	HIGHLY COMMEDED	COMMEDED
ANIMALS	Greg Miles	Greg Miles	David Cramb	Julie Hemsall	Julie Hemsall
CHILDREN	Undine Dam Huis	Jill Hunter	Jill Hunter	Spencer Brinkley	Undine Dam Huis
CLOUDS	Madison Good	Adele Frew	Jan Thompson	David Cramb	Lauren Deagon
HUMOROUS	Graeme Wilson	Graeme Wilson	Julie Hemsall	Undine Dam Huis	David Cramb



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OPENING HOURS

WED	9AM-4PM
THURS	9AM-4PM
FRI	9AM-4PM
SAT	9AM-12PM

Specials and updates will be posted on
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www.maryvalleysmallgoods.com.au

Pet Care with Dr Terri



TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET

Travelling with your pet is often fun, but please restrain them well - not only to be safe but if you don't you may be breaking the law.

Did you know that travelling with an unrestrained dog in a trailer or ute tray is now an offence in all states, in Queensland, the offence incurs a maximum fine of \$8,625.

The safest way to transport a dog in the back of an open vehicle is in an enclosed cage. If a cage is not possible, tether your dog to the back of the ute. Use a harness to secure to a point in the middle of the cabin - never use a choke chain, this can tighten and cause strangling.

Make sure the lead or chain swivels at both ends and is long enough to allow comfortable movement but not allow them to reach the side of the ute. Take care in hot or dusty conditions, the back of a ute can become very hot.

Is it OK to drive with my dog on my lap?

New research revealed driving with your dog unrestrained in the car could be as dangerous as mobile phone distraction.

If you let your pet sit on your lap while you are driving, this is against the law and comes with a fine of up to 20 penalty points which is more than \$2000. You can be charged with an offence if your animal interferes with your driving in any way.

Dr Terri is our local Vet, serving Ridgewood and Carters Ridge.

Website: www.drterris.com.au/

Restraining your pet is important for the safety of your pet. Small pets should be transported in secured carriers. Larger pets should be restrained in car specific harnesses, these have a wide chest plate (see picture). A simple collar clicked into a seat belt keeps your pet in one place but can cause serious neck injury if you have to break suddenly or are in an accident. It is also safer to keep your pets out of the front seat due to injury if your airbag is deployed.

If any part of your dog, other than its head, protrudes from the vehicle you can be fined. A maximum penalty of \$9,678.00 applies.

Leaving pets in hot cars

A fairly recently amended animal cruelty offence (breach of duty of care) now states that if a person is guilty of leaving an animal in a car that suffers heat stress or pain they can be fined up to \$266,900 or up to three years in jail.

Fine amounts and penalty point numbers can vary greatly but the important thing to note is that it is dangerous to drive with an unsecured animal.

Travel safe everyone!





Dr Terri's

Home Vet Visits

Stress-free Veterinary Care

Dr Terri King BVSc (Hons) is local a small animal Vet based in Carters Ridge with over 17 years experience. She has a special interest in behaviour and loves to work with cats.

0430410283

Call, Text or Msg on
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www.drterris.com.au



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Business Spotlight

CHRISTINE MACKINTOSH

Hi Community! My name is Christine Mackintosh.

I have recently moved into the area with my husband Simon and our 8 year old daughter Maggie.

We're loving being in this community and have made some great connections so far through Simon's building work, as well as the ladies morning tea and open mic night events at The Hub. Simon and I are both musicians, performing as an acoustic duo – The Bushcooks – and hope to be back there again at the end of the month.



Back home in New Zealand I worked in the careers space – helping people to find meaningful work and reestablish themselves in the workforce after injury, but these days I'm a homeschooling Mum. Through educating Maggie at home, and working on lots of creative projects together I have reconnected with my own creative side and have thrown myself right into drawing and painting. I love drawing animals, and have been doing more and more pet portraits for people – they make wonderful, one of a kind gifts, and are a lovely way to remember a treasured pet. I work mainly in pencil, pastel, water colour and ink.

If you have a great photo of your pet that you'd like to transform into a unique piece of art, please get in touch

Christine Mackintosh

E: Christine.mackintosh.nz@gmail.com

Ph: 0452-567-906



Round the Ridges History: Helga takes a look back in time...

DID YOU KNOW...

In 1997 the Maroochy Shire council had plans to build a mega dump. It was planned for the quarry site on the Skyring Kenilworth Road, across the road from Wellington Road.

It was a suitable site for the council as it was 'out of site and therefore out of mind.'

This was to dispose of all the rubbish from the Maroochy Shire, at the most North Westerly point of the shire. The dump would have drained into Belli Creek and thence into the Mary River. We could not let this happen.

We the locals, decided to fight this proposal. From our farm diaries, I see there was a meeting at Mark Griffin's house on Gilliland road on the 17th April 1997, followed by one on April 23, then a meeting on 30th April to organize the constitution .

By then the plan must have been well known, as we received a cheque from HinterNoosa in Cooroy on 14th May to help the new organisation.

Shortly after this Victor and I flew to the UK to visit his mother, and there is no more mention of the Mega Dump in the diaries, so we must have stopped it.

As the locals had come together to fight this unsuitable council plan on environmental grounds, the natural progression was to form an association to protect our local environment. A new group was formed , it was CRREA-- Carters Ridge Ridgewood Environmental Association.

Helga Hill is a long time Ridgewood resident with lots of stories about the history of the Ridges.

Join Us...

Ladies Morning Tea at the HUB

Hello Hub family!

We would like to welcome all of our Hub ladies to a morning tea.

Ladies morning Tea at the HUB, Friday mornings from gam. Come down for a cuppa and cake. Bring a friend or meet new ones.

We can't wait to bring our community together.

Bianca & Deb

Friday Mornings, gam





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Thursday - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm


Saturday - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm


For upcoming events see the Calendar on website

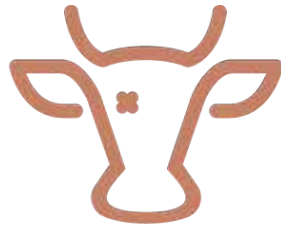
Specialist groups meet once a month
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 genealogy-noosa.org.au

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RTRLOCAL24

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Pig on a Spit 2024

Join a great community and get some pork on your fork at the Annual Pig on a Spit on Friday 30th August

This year our annual Pig on a Spit will be held on Friday 30th August. Once again we are capping the attendance at 100 so get in quick to reserve your seat!

Unfortunately, we have had to increase our charge slightly this year to keep up with rising costs but I think it is still a great value meal to share with locals at our fabulous hall!

There will be amazing salads and sides available and you can bring along your own drinks and cutlery. Plates will be provided.

The serving of the meal starts at 6pm but you are free to come earlier to check out the pig cooking and being carved.

Children 5 and under will be free

Children from 5 to 12 will be \$10/head

Children from 13 and on up to adult will be \$15/head

To reserve your seat email ckirkpatrick330@gmail.com with the names and ages of everyone you register.



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5447 6131**





Local artist **Maree Austin** will have her ceramics and abstract paintings on display as part of the Noosa Open Studios event at the Ridgewood Hall, 2 Donnelly's Road, Ridgewood

Open from 10am -4 pm
on the following dates:

- Sat 31st August
- Sunday 1st September
- Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th September.



mudbrickstudios35@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome,
tea and coffee
complementary if you
would like to share a
cuppa and chat about
everything art.



2024
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The Ridgewood Community Hall Association is seeking new committee members to help facilitate the running of the Hall and its associated community events.

We are looking for community members who live in our local area and are interested in the following positions:

- Editor of our bi-monthly publication “Round the Ridges”
- Assistant editor for “Round the Ridges” – sourcing articles
- Events co-ordinator and liaison
- Social media and web manager

Our committee is a group of friendly volunteers who would love to see the committee expand to involve more community members. No experience necessary, you can learn as you go!

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in, contact Chris Kirkpatrick:
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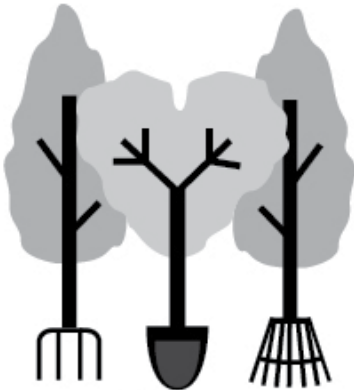
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Weeds

Conventional agricultural practice states that weeds, insects and disease are our enemies and must be controlled. However when it comes to crop health, weeds, disease and insect attacks are interrelated and can actually be sending us a message about crop vigour.

The Latin word *cide* meaning to kill or cut down has given rise to weedicides, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, bactericides, viracides. These chemical groups are further supported by roundup resistant breeding crops, where crops and weeds can be sprayed without affecting the actual crop. In turn this crop production ie: supported by the chemical NPK, soluble fertiliser industry and soil tests can determine fertiliser needs to maximise crop production.

The industrial chemical industry supporting agriculture has not been without its problems. Cultivation of lack of soil carbon has led to severe soil erosion and weeds are becoming resistant to herbicides, affecting streams and rivers which are suffering pollution and algal blooms.

Alternative ways for controlling weeds

There has been a fantastic knowledge bank developed regarding the control of weeds and what weeds are telling us in symptoms of soil fertility, deficiency, disease and insect outbreaks.

Some of the best reference books are:

- Charles Walters: Weed control without poisons
- Jay McCaman: When weeds talk

- Arden Andersen: Science in Agriculture, Chapter 12

- Philip Wheeler and Ronald Ward: The Non-Toxic Hand Book, Chapter 4 and 14

These references tell us that weeds don't always occupy niches that are not ideal for crops. Weeds are the first to colonise bare ground and often have different root systems to crops, some with tap roots that bring nutrients from deep in the soil up to the surface. Their root exudates support different microbes so they can harvest more and different nutrients. A good measure for seeing if weeds are dominating your garden or land is by using a Brixs read with a refractometer.

It's always good to note that Legumes don't really survive or do well in pastures as a brix reading of 4.7 for glycine siratro has been recorded for Legumes. A level below 8 means sucking insects like mealy bugs will attack the leaves and destroy the plant.

Always note that a brix level above 12 is required for healthy plants. If the brix level of the weeds are higher than the crop it is not a good outcome for crop yield.

One of the most important factors of soil fertility is balancing soil nutrition. When nutrient shortfalls or there are out of balance nutrients this can hinder crop growth and in turn favour weeds.

The following table (right) compares the ideal soil nutrients with soils typical of Mary Valley and the implication on weeds.

Comments on Soil Analysis table

1. Hydrogen level of 24% is high indicating low fertility.

2. Calcium to Magnesium ratio is too low at 1.77 to 1 and should be 6 or 7 to 1 giving rise to unbalanced soil poor structure and weeds.

3. The pH is 5.7 is too low: excess hydrogen and magnesium has one and a half times impact on raising pH than Calcium. Lime must be applied to get good results.

4. Phosphorus level is low and potash high. For good weed control a phosphorus to potash ratio of 2:1 is required. Apotash ratio to Phosphorus ratio of 4 to 1 makes weeds almost uncontrollable.

5. Sulphur at 27ppm is very low.

6. Boron is one third the desired level causing legume symptoms of rosetting short peteoles.

7. Molybdenum level is too low to grow legumes and the brix level of 4.7 makes them prone to sucking insects. An application of 400g per hectare is required.

The soil nutrition and balance of nutrients is a major factor in encouraging weeds and poor pasture productivity.

Fixing the Mary river soil nutrition for good weed insect and disease control applies as follows per acre: 1 ton lime, 10 to 20kg solubor, 0.3 to 0.6kg sodium molybdenum and 50kg soft rock phosphate. The mixture would be

Category	Mary Valley Soil	Ideal Soil
pH	5.7	6.3
Ca/Mg Ratio	1.77 to 1	5.67 to 1
Nitrate ppm	1.9	15.0
NHS	5.8	15
Phosphorus	2.1	45
Calcium	1109	1722
Magnesium	375	182
Potassium	294	200
Sodium	29	30
Sulphur	27	40
Aluminium	7	5
Silicon	22	100 plus
Boron	0.58	2.0
Iron	305	120
Manganese	43	70
Copper	3.7	5.0
Zinc	8.3	7.0
	BAS SAURATION	
Calcium	43.8	68
Magnesium	24.7	12
Potassium	5.91	4.0
Sodium	1.0	1.0
Aluminium	0.57	0.5
Hydrogen	24	10.0

applied half in November and half in March so as not to overload the fertiliser on the soil surface. Rain is needed to dissolve the fertiliser

Happy Weed Control!

Dick School is an agricultural scientist who lives in Carters Ridge.

KIDS CORNER

What do you call an alligator who solves mysteries?
An investigator!

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?
A maybe!

If a seagull flies over the sea, what flies over the bay?
A bagel!

What happens when a grape gets run over crossing the street?
A traffic jam!



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