

Ravenswood Round-up

March 2023

Flying Foxes: understanding the issues

Flying Foxes, also known as fruit bats, are part of the ecology of Ravenswood, with numbers increasing and decreasing over the years. Since the steady wet season has brought a viable water source into Elphinstone Creek, and food sources are flourishing, there has been a noticeable increase of flying foxes roosting in the trees near Elphinstone Creek. Although it is a spectacular sight as they leave their roosts at dusk and forage for food up to 40 km away, the increase of flying foxes can also bring the nuisance impacts of noise and odour. As bats are a protected species, the *Department of Environment and Science (DES)* is tasked with conserving flying-foxes, but also recognises that there needs to be ways for communities to take action to manage roost sites.

Information provided by DES helps with understanding the issues and can be found on the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au. Type in **Living Near Flying Foxes** in the home page search bar to find the information relating to managing flying foxes. DES explain, "Flying-foxes may establish seasonal roosts. For example, large numbers of the highly nomadic little red flying-fox may settle temporarily at a site and only stay as long as sufficient food is available in the area. Arriving in large numbers, the little reds will cluster in 'clumps' on every roosting branch, stripping them of leaves and even snapping them off under their combined weight. In many cases these roost expansions only last a few weeks, and the flying-foxes will move on when fruiting or flowering events in the surrounding area come to an end. Just as the influx of large numbers of little red flying-foxes can come as a surprise, the day will come when they disappear and move on to their next food source."



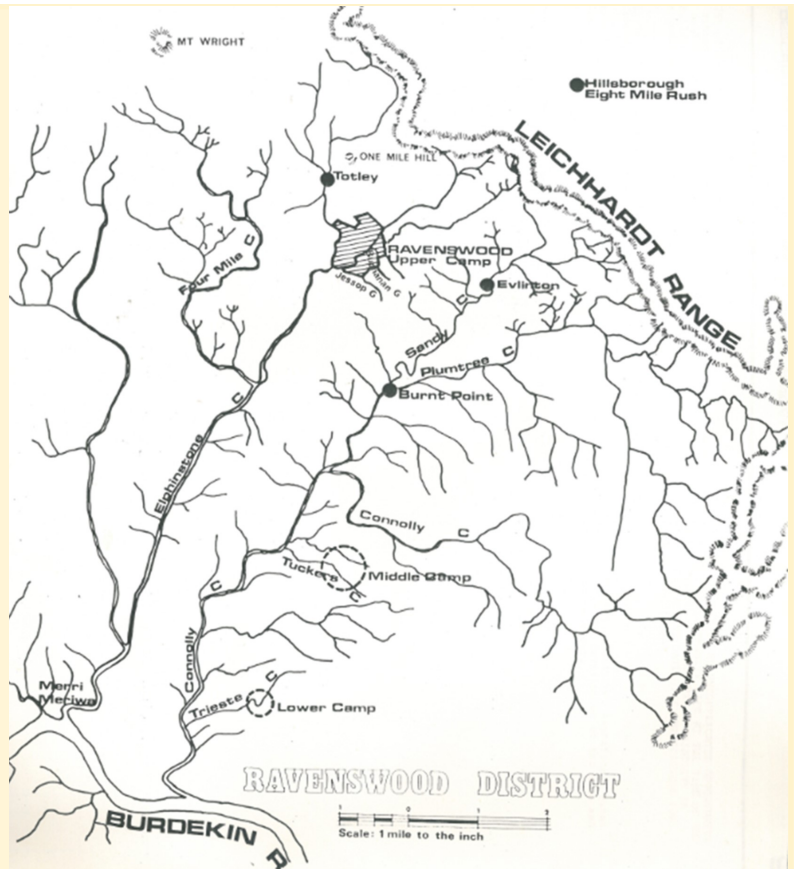
Wildlife Awareness

Ravenswood Gold's environmental team recently responded to a wedge tailed eagle that had been injured by a vehicle and was unable to fly. It was taken to the James Cook University Veterinary Clinic. The eagle had a fractured elbow and therefore not able to fly again. It's a timely reminder for all road users to be aware and slow down for wildlife. Large birds such as wedge tailed eagles can weigh up to 5.3kg, and takes them much longer to take off from the ground. This is also the case for bustards, peacocks and other large birds of prey. They can't move as fast as vehicles and your vigilance may save them and prevent damage to your vehicle. Please remember – if you see wildlife, slow down.

Settlement and mining in North Queensland

European settlement in North Queensland began with the founding of Bowen in 1861, and the spread of pastoralists through the hinterland. Pastoral stations were established along the Burdekin River, including 'Ravenswood' and 'Merri Merriwa', however, mining proved to be the main reason for European settlement. Alluvial gold was discovered in tributaries of Connolly Creek on Merri Merriwa Station in late 1868. Prospectors soon established 'Middle Camp' on Tucker's Creek, and 'Lower Camp' on Trieste Creek, with about 700 miners on the field by early 1869. In April 1869, the goldfield's richest alluvial discoveries were made in three dry creek beds close to the site of Ravenswood: Nolan's, Jessop's, and Buchanan's gullies. In the next 40 years, nearly £3 million of gold came from the reefs in the little triangle between Buchanan's Gully, east of

Macrossan Street, Jessop's Gully, southwest of the town, and Elphinstone Creek. Other reefs were soon found north of Elphinstone Creek. However, a lack of water meant that miners did not establish 'Upper Camp' (later became Ravenswood) near the General Grant and Sunset reefs until October 1869, after a storm temporarily resolved the water issue. The three camps had a population of 600 by January 1870 which confirmed that Ravenswood was the first significant reef mining goldfield in the northern half of Australia.



Each year, the **Ravenswood Restoration and Preservation Association** (RRPA) provide an opportunity for the community to honour our service men and women by organising the Anzac Day Dawn Service. A breakfast sponsored by Ravenswood Gold will follow the service. The RRPA are calling for volunteers to help set up and pack away tables and chairs for the breakfast. If you can help, contact Scott on 0406 397 392. The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th April with the time brought forward to a 2pm start.

Some of the calls the **State Emergency Service** respond to could be prevented with a bit of self-reliance preparation. During a rather stormy rain event, members of Ravenswood SES were called out to undertake temporary repairs to a home where tree branches had smashed through a window. This could have been prevented had had tree branches been trimmed. Consider what you could do avoid similar occurrences. Although this summer there has been no callouts, the local SES team have been kept busy training for emergencies. Over the past month, SES members have completed traffic control training and safe handling of chainsaws. Coming up is the 4x4 driving and recovery course. Contact Ivan on 0447 410 125 if you have an old unusable vehicle to donate for future road crash training.



Judy Chapman undertaking Chainsaw handling training.



Principal's Report What a busy month! From NAPLAN, swimming lessons, and students working and learning their way through the Curriculum, we have been flat out.

The year 5/6 students have linked in with Thuringowa High School with their Global STEM Project. The students use an online platform with other schools in the region to solve a heist using Forensic skills in Science and Maths.

Catherine, our Teacher Aide of eight years, has taken a role at All Souls St Gabriels School and finished up a few weeks back. We wish her all the best. We welcome Ms Kate to the team. Kate brings to the school community a burst of enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. The permanent position will be advertised in the new term.

We are always looking for new enrolments, if you are considering a relocation to Ravenswood, you are always welcomed to pop in and say hello or arrange a school tour, please contact the office on 47549999 for more information. Finally, my contract finishes at the end of term. I have enjoyed working at the school and loved the small community of Ravenswood. **Robert Lambert Acting Principal**



NEW LAPTOPS HUGE thank you to the RSS P&C and Ravenswood Gold for their contribution to provide 15 new laptops for the students.

FROG HOTEL Frog hotels are a great way to encourage more frogs into a garden. Students were shown how to make a frog hotel by Clancy, one of the mines Environmental Advisors. The students have decided to call it croak crib.



PROJECT CHILLI The year 6's came up with an action plan whilst on camp to make an impact within the community. The students wanted to get involved with the community garden and have applied for a Woolworths Land Care grant to bring the community garden back to life. To get the ball rolling, the senior students planted some chillies to start producing some home-grown chilli sauce. The first batch is almost ready with Mr Lambert's recipe.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Davin, who captained his Charters Towers Bulls rugby side in the curtain raiser for the recent Queensland Reds Rugby game in Townville. Davin led the Bulls from the front scoring with three tries, claiming victory over the Burdekin team.



FAREWELL MR LAMBERT from students and staff at RSS

Thank you for your support and assistance throughout your time at Ravenswood State School. You have led the school faultlessly, in a warm and inclusive manner, allowing our team to flourish. The students have grown to respect your quiet authority, enjoy your sense of humour and benefit from your focus on their education. We are sure that any school will benefit equally from your leadership. We wish you well in the future and hope to see you again. **It has been an absolute pleasure having you at our school.**





Extending the life of the mine

In the early 1980s, Mount Isa Mines Holdings (MIM) brought activity back to the township of Ravenswood after exploration works discovered viable gold in the Buck Reef West (BRW), Sarsfield and Nolans ore bodies. The mine was taken over in 2004 by Resolute which continued surface operations at Sarsfield and in 2006, developed the Mt Wright underground mine north of Ravenswood.

In 2009, mining ceased in Sarsfield with the pit becoming a tailings storage facility for the operation. Mining in Nolans East open pit occurred from 2016 to 2018 to supplement the underground ore being generated from Mt Wright. As the Mt Wright underground mine approached the end of its life, the viability of re-commencing open pit mining in the BRW and Sarsfield/Nolans pits was investigated.

Between 2017 and 2019, the Queensland Government issued a number of approvals for the Ravenswood Expansion Project, to re-commence mining in the BRW, Sarsfield and Nolans pits and build the associated infrastructure.

Ravenswood Gold purchased the mine in 2020 and provided the capital investment required to commence the expansion project which started with mining in the BRW pit, construction of a tailings storage facility and expansion of the processing plant. The next stage is to recommence mining in the Sarsfield pit in mid-2023. Current plans show the mine will process 7.2 million tonnes of ore to produce 200,000 ounces of gold per annum.

Time to celebrate! Ravenswood Gold has reached a significant milestone, with the commissioning of the Ravenswood Expansion Project. To celebrate, Ravenswood Gold are inviting the local community to an official opening dinner.

Date: Wednesday 12th April 2023 Time: 5.30pm
Location: Ravenswood State School. RSVP by either contacting our reception on (07) 4736 9100 or emailing rsvp@ravenswoodgold.com

Mining in Sarsfield and Nolans pits



- Sarsfield/Nolans pit extension
- Existing noise bund
- Power and water services corridor.
- New water treatment plant
- New noise bund

Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Works have commenced to construct the new Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The WTP upgrade will increase available town water from 500 kilolitres (kl) per day to 1,000 kl per day. The new WTP incorporates both automation and manual inputs allowing the operating system to modify treatment of the raw water feed to improve potable water quality. The fully enclosed WTP will have external noise suppression elements to reduce acoustic influence.

What's happening?

Enjoy a non denominational **Christian service** at the historic Ravenswood Church
Sunday 2nd April starting at 10am. All welcome.



Come and enjoy browsing through the **Ravenswood Garden Markets** on Easter Sunday 9th April. Try the delicious homemade pies including an Easter Scallamundi Pie. Thorps Tea Room and Treasures will be open for coffee and Devonshire Tea with kids activities including an Easter Piñata and jumping castle. Enquire at the Imperial Hotel if you'd like to set up a stall.

Wednesday 12 April is the **Official Opening of the Ravenswood Expansion Project**. To celebrate, Ravenswood Gold is inviting the community to a BBQ dinner and drinks at the Ravenswood State School from 5.30pm to 9.00pm. For catering purposes, confirm your attendance by either contacting reception on 4736 9100 or rsvp@ravenswoodgold.com.



Hosted by the Ravenswood Restoration and Preservation Association, **Anzac Day Dawn Service** will be once again held on Tuesday 25th April at the Court House grounds. Starting at 5:45am for a 6:00am start, join the nation here in Ravenswood for the Anzac Dawn Service as we honour our service men and women.



Ravenswood to Burdekin Dam Gran Fondo returns on Saturday 29th April. Get set cheer on around 130 cyclists as they pedal their way along the picturesque Burdekin Falls Dam Road. Proudly sponsored by Orica and Ravenswood Gold, the ride commences at 8am with riders returning throughout the day.



A **Community Morning Tea** will be held 10:00am Wednesday 3rd May at Thorps Building Heritage Tea Room & Treasures. Hosted by Ravenswood Gold, catch up with your neighbours and the latest updates on mining activities.



Capturing the beauty of life in Ravenswood, below are samples of the March entries for Ravenswood Gold's Social Club **Picture Perfect Competition**. The winner of the \$50 gift voucher is entrant number 4. Send your entries into socialclubsecretary@ravenswoodgold.com.

