

Ravenswood Round Up

February 2023

Welcomed rainfall also bring challenges

The recent substantial rainfall has been welcomed with weather stations recording 322 millimetres for the month of January. Continued February rain has creeks flowing again, dams filling up, overflowing water tanks and a scenic green country side to enjoy. Rain also caused some issues with road closures and washouts around the district and in Ravenswood. Ravenswood Gold's environmental team were kept busy with extra monitoring of dams and creeks to ensure mine operations didn't impact waterways. All in all though, we have faired well.

With the rain causing a dangerous washout in one of the Community Garden driveways, a request to Pensar to donate some of the One Mile Creek Culvert upgrade's road base to fill in the washout was responded to without hesitation. Not only did Pensar repair the damaged drive way, they exceeded expectations with grading and general repair of all garden and railway carriage entrances. Marge Hancock, the overseer of the garden was thrilled with the help from Pensar and said the driveways are the best they have been in years!



Marge is welcoming of any help in the Community Garden. If you can spare an hour or two fortnightly or even monthly with tasks such as watering, weeding, raking and planting, meet Marge under the large shade tree at the back of the garden next Tuesday 28th February at 4.30pm for an information session, or call on 0488 147 539.



Local school boy excels at National Titles

In the recent school holidays, the Easton family piled the camping gear into the car and headed the long journey to Tamworth to support 14 year old Beau Easton in the Australian Bushman's Campdraft and Rodeo Association (ABCRA) National Finals. Driving as far as Longreach, they had to turn around for a slow drive home with car troubles. Determined for Beau to compete to represent hometown Ravenswood, and with no time to waste, flights to Tamworth were booked for Beau and his father Graham. With only minutes to spare, they arrived at the Townsville airport just in time to board the plane.

Being a first timer at the event didn't stop Beau from placing 5th in the aggregate for mini bulls and an outstanding 2nd place aggregate for the 11-14 year old steer ride. Mum Joeleene said Beau has been riding poddy calves since he could walk and loves the sport. Qualifying for Australian championships, the only thing stopping Beau from fulfilling his passion is funding. If you're interested in sponsoring Beau to help him on his Rodeo journey, contact Joeleene on 0428 735 793.



Pictured above is Beau during a steer ride and right, holding his second place red ribbon.

Secret Missions in Ravenswood

More than 100 years ago, two men carrying out secret experiments saw Ravenswood as the first site in Australia to use a gold extraction process that was destined to sweep the goldfields. The MacArthur-Forrest Cyanide Process, first patented in 1887 in Glasgow, Scotland, changed the economics of gold ore treatment. Dr Sandra Close, author of two books on the gold industry in Australia, tells how Ravenswood took a pioneering role in the adoption of the new process in Australia. "By 1888, the Cassel Company was carrying out secret experiments in their Ravenswood facility to see if the MacArthur-Forrest Cyanide Process would work on locally sourced ore, and the two men that they sent to it were Peter and Duncan McIntyre," Dr Close said. "The reason the tests were secret was that the patents for the MacArthur-Forrest Cyanide Process had not been accepted in many parts of the world. And they were not accepted in Queensland, until 1890." The work must have yielded success as, after the patent was granted in the colony of Queensland, the group established the Australian Gold Recovery Company, which was floated in 1891 and set up in Charters Towers in 1892. The technological change in processing delivered by the introduction of the MacArthur-Forrest Cyanide Process contributed to Australia's second gold boom in the late 1890s and early 1900s.*

Pictured is the Partridge and Ralston Mill Cyanide Tanks still standing in Ravenswood. Cyanide extraction is the process of dissolving fine gold in a cyanide solution and later precipitating the gold out of the solution.

*Extract from an article in the Industry Queensland magazine, used with permission.



Ravenswood Restoration and Preservation Association AGM

The Ravenswood Restoration and Preservation Association (RRPA) is off to an energetic start for 2023. The Annual General Meeting, followed by a committee meeting was held on 15th January. The Management Committee remains the same with Narelle Hancock as President, Fay Martin Vice President, Scott Wilkie as Secretary and Bruce Harries Treasurer.

Projects to improve the visitor experience in the town were discussed and included updating the town heritage site information signs, and improving the display of machinery and mine artefacts that are located on the land beside the Railway Hotel. This year the RRPA meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month. We invite any members of the community who would like to be part of the RRPA contact Scott on 0406 397 392.

Pool opening times

To be kept informed on the pool opening times contact Bianca on 0429 950 828. Currently the opening hours shown below are subject to weather and availability of qualified life guards. If you're interested in becoming a life guard, contact Bianca on 0429 950 828.

Monday: 3.15pm–5pm

Tuesday: 3.15pm –5pm; 6pm–7:20pm

Wednesday: 3.15pm –5pm; 6pm–7:20pm

Thursday: 8.30am –10.30am, 3.15pm–5pm

Friday: 3.15pm-5pm

Saturday: 3pm–5pm

Sunday: 8.30am—10:30am, 3pm-5pm





Welcome back Ravenswood SS students!

Principal's Report We are all set for another big year at Ravenswood SS! 2023 will be action packed with all types of learning to engage and inspire our enthusiastic and eager students to be independent, critical thinkers and life long learners.

We've started the year with 15 students, welcoming four new students to our community. We have continued to maintain the three learning areas; Kindy Room, Junior Room (Prep-2) and Senior Room (Year 3-6). Our plan focuses on quality teaching and learning.

I congratulate our three seniors for 2023, Artie, Wilfred and Laynie, who wear their badges and shirts with pride. Myself and the seniors will be venturing up to Paluma to participate in a Townsville Primary school leadership summit. Leadership is often a quality that goes unnoticed with young people today.

Whilst we are small school, our students do not miss out on the opportunities to engage in extra-curricula activities. Our music program with Ms Levena continues, year 5/6's have signed up to the region's Global Tropic STEM program, swimming lessons, Japanese lessons, access to sport and cultural activities, the list continues to grow.

With Miss Sarah moving back home to Brisbane, we are very privileged to have Ms Diana Davis, an experienced Early Teacher join the team. Of course, we welcome back Ms Alford and Ms Catherine. Their professionalism and commitment to teaching is second to none. We are always welcome for new enrolments. If you have a young family and considering relocating to Ravenswood, pop in and say hello or arrange a school tour by contacting the office on 4754 9999.

Robert Lambert Acting Principal

Books 4 PNG Kids

At the end of the 2022, our students decided to donate books, and classroom supplies to the charity, *Books 4 PNG Kids*. This charity aims to help early reader literacy in Papua and New Guinea.



#smallschoolsbigopportunities

Welcome to our new teacher

Hi Ravenswood... I am Mrs Davis!

My family and I have moved here from Greenvale so some of you might recognise our faces from the cluster carnival events. We are excited to be here and look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Just a little bit about us... I am a passionate early childhood educator with 17 years' experience across three different settings. As a senior teacher, I would love to offer my knowledge, experience and skills to a new school while broadening my own teaching and learning capability. My two children Bailey and Priya are looking forward to starting school here and making some new friends.

We love movies, swimming and camping holidays exploring this beautiful North Queensland country side.



Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to Artie who was one of three U12 cricketers chosen to represent the Charters Towers District at the North Qld Cricket trials.

Rain Event Environmental Protection

The Environment team have been very active these past weeks with extra checks of the dams and creeks to protect our community, protect our workers, fulfill our legal requirements and keep our mine running smoothly during the wet season. The activities included:

Monitoring and Sampling

We increased checks on dam water levels, including Suhrs Creek Dam, and surface water monitoring in creeks and waterways to twice a day.

Reporting

If required, we report the findings to the Department of Environment and Science. We also report to relevant internal departments for early intervention to mitigate any impact the rains may have on the waterways.

Management

We installed additional water management measures, such as pumps and sumps to manage water on site.

Measurement factors

We test the following factors for surface water sampling:

- ⇒ **pH** Water pH determines levels of acidity or alkalinity. Ideal is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- ⇒ **EC** The Electrical Conductivity provides an indication of the levels of salinity and/or other factors in water.
- ⇒ **Turbidity** measures suspended solids such as clay, silt, and other matter. If the water becomes 'very turbid', it is carrying a large amount of sediment, which is expected after a rain event.
- ⇒ **DO** Measuring Dissolved Oxygen helps us understand ecosystem health. High DO supports healthy biological activity from aquatic plants and animals.
- ⇒ **Metals & non-metallic inorganics** Water samples are sent to independent laboratories to measure chemical constituents to ensure a healthy environment remains in our waterways.

Extensive monitoring during rain events and throughout the year ensures Ravenswood Gold is appropriately managing its operations, compliance requirements and potential interactions with the local environment.



Pest animal management

In large populations, pest animals can threaten the biodiversity of our region. Under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014* every person has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). Ravenswood Gold (RG) works with Charters Towers Regional Council (CTRC) to do its part.

After several notifications of sightings to RG and CTRC, RG engaged Albert Withers, from Infront Wild Dog Management to assist in maintaining the balance in our ecosystem and help protect native fauna and flora. Albert trapped 43 pest animals including cats, deer, pigs and wild dogs over a three week period. For large animals, he uses scent-baited soft-foot traps to minimise harm to the animal. Albert uses food-baited cage traps to entice smaller animals.

We can all play a role to ensure we minimise biosecurity risks to protect Queensland's environment from pests and diseases. This can include preventing domestic cats and dogs from roaming and ensuring they are desexed to minimise breeding with wild populations, not leaving food scraps in areas that are accessible by feral animals and reporting sightings of pest animals to CTRC.



Pictured: Albert setting a soft-footed trap to entice wild

...and finally

This beautiful image captured the golden gloaming of a summer sunset over Ravenswood, and is this month's winner of Ravenswood Gold's Social Club Picture Perfect competition. See below for more details.



There are monthly \$50 Coles Group gift vouchers to be won in the **Social Club's Picture Perfect competition**. Send images of your life in Ravenswood to SocialClubSecretary@ravenswoodgold.com by the first Friday of the month. The best image submitted will win a \$50 voucher. Winning images will be used to produce a calendar for distribution to Social Club members in 2024 or for purchase by non-social club members.



The first events for the Ravenswood Gold Social Club will be held on Tuesday 7th March and Tuesday 28th March at the Golf Course. Starting at 6:15pm, Night Golf and BBQ will be a chance to catch up, enjoy live music and for those inclined, swing a golf club in honour of our dear friend and colleague Herbie Fong. Herbie was an avid golfer who recently passed away.



Members of the community are welcome to join the Social Club for annual fee of \$120. Some of the events planned so far for 2023 include, trivia nights, Burdekin Race Day, seafood nights, pool parties, chance to attend Cowboys home games, State of Origin gatherings and the Halloween Ball.

Email SocialClubSecretary@ravenswoodgold.com for more information on how to join.



In its 75th year, the Goldfield Ashes is the largest amateur cricket carnival in the southern hemisphere, held in Charters Towers, bringing hundreds of cricket enthusiasts from near and far. Four local ladies, Joeleene Easton, Mally Ahearn, and ex-Ravenswood residents Samantha Cordie and Karin Robinson were part of the Slippery Pitches team. Winning the first two games out of three, they ended up a respectable fifth place out of 22 teams by the end of the three day competition.