

Ravenswood Round-up

February 2025

Time to have a CheckUP

Among trying weather conditions, the Flying Doctors flew into Ravenswood for the first of four Skin Check Clinics on Friday 31st January. This is due to the partnership with CheckUP. CheckUP is a not for profit organisation dedicated to better health for communities in regional, rural and remote locations in Queensland. Queensland Health came on board to provide funding for CheckUP to coordinate the delivery of Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection for 16 communities around North West Queensland, including Ravenswood. The Royal Flying Doctor Service deliver the Skin Check clinics on behalf of CheckUP. These clinics are additional to the general health support RFDS deliver at monthly Wednesday Clinics.



At this clinic alone, 6 biopsies and 3 excisions for suspected skin cancers were performed by the highly skilled medical team. Due to weather impacts, the second clinic scheduled for the 14th February was postponed and rescheduled for Friday 11th April.

This a free service for our community thanks to the RFDS and CheckUP. If not already done so, contact the RFDS on 4040 0444 to book an appointment with the friendly administration staff to ensure you take the opportunity to have a skin check, and perhaps prevent further more invasive surgery to remove skin cancers.

Legs Eleven—Bingo Heaven.

The Bingo Jackpots went off during the final bingo games for 2024. Generously sponsored by Orica, EarthCo, Green Acers, Di Schluter, Gina and Dwane Davis, five lucky winners walked away with a combined prize money of around \$1,000. First time player Sandy Moore was exited about winning one of the Jackpots. “I had a vague idea of what to do but it didn’t take much to learn the game. We had loads of laughs so my sisters and I will defiantly be back for fun and games in 2025”. Bingo games are held at the Imperial Hotel, and will start 13th April, to coincide with monthly Sunday market days.



Above: The five lucky Jackpot winners!

Watering system—what a relief!

If you’ve not been down to the community gardens for a while, then make a point of doing so. Thanks to funding from the RRPAs, and the tireless efforts of local community member Dave Martin where he installed an irrigation system, watering and caring for the garden has become easier for long term carer of the garden, Margaret Hancock. Fay Martin has also put in many hours weeding, planting and tidying up the main hub of the garden (with help from Dave). Dave and Fay’s efforts have made it so much easier to help stay on top of the vast area allocated for the Community Garden.

Hay Bales Wanted

If any landowners have old unusable hay bales, Margie would be most grateful if you could drop them off at the garden.



Home and Heritage

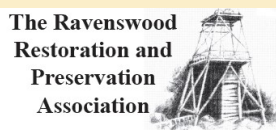
Ravenswood State School Residence



The original Ravenswood State School Residence built in 1873, (picture is 1968 image) is now located in Elphinstone Street opposite the new school Principal's residence. The original school residence is the oldest building in Ravenswood and is thought to be the oldest surviving house in a North Queensland town. Because of its age, it is also the only one of the first government school buildings to survive. An architect named Richard Suter (25 April 1827—22 July 1894) was commissioned by the Queensland Board of Education to produce a standard design for timber frames schools, particularly for regional areas. Suter's unique design was a low set rectangular, gabled timber shingled roof structure with front and rear verandas.

The restored heritage listed Ravenswood State School and residence is an example of Suter's designs with its typical outside studding, only cladding the interior, to save money. Built in 1873 the residence, predates this standardisation of design which strongly influenced domestic building throughout Queensland; the use of an exposed frame, for example, which was to become prevalent in North Queensland a decade later. The Queensland Board of Education used his design almost exclusively until 1875. The Ravenswood State School Residence is components of an educational facility that has served Ravenswood well. The school and the residence, has had many extensions and changes over the years to accommodate changing needs.

With the expansion of the mine, the school and residence were preserved by moving to a new location in Elphinstone Street. This also provided an opportunity for significant restoration of the building to bring it back to its former glory and again be utilised as a residence for school staff. The works included reinstating and conserving the brick chimney, insulation in the roof, a repaint, repairing inoperable timber windows and doors, and new bathroom and kitchen fit outs.



The February meeting of the RRPAA had an influx of new members which is an exciting prospect for 2025. The meeting held on 11th February was to be the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Without the required number of financial members present to vote for the executive, the AGM was rescheduled for Tuesday 25 February. With 12 members present at this meeting, voting went ahead with the result being; Narelle Hancock, President, Vice-President Fay Martin, Secretary Scott Wilkie and Treasurer Billie Rutherford.

There are some exciting projects being undertaken for 2025 so all willing hands to help move these along are welcome. With a stronger membership base supporting the endeavours and objectives of the Association, so much more can be achieved for Ravenswood.



February meeting of the RRPAA



So often the first week of school in North Queensland not only brings the pitter patter of little feet into classrooms but also the pitter patter of rain on the school roof. 2025 was no exception with teachers having to speak over the battering rain.

At the end of last year, the school community bid farewell to Miss Katee Wakefield and her family, who have moved to Gayndah where Katee has accepted a position. We wish her all the best at her new school.

This past week Diana Davis received exciting news. "I have been successful in my application for Principal of the school. I am overjoyed that my family and I can remain a part of this community. We are fortunate to have many dedicated staff members continuing their roles here at Ravenswood SS, including Diane Alford (Teacher), Pam Schneider (Business Manager), Bianca Byers (Teacher Aide), Evalyn Harries (Cleaner) and Robert Lee (Grounds). We welcome our new Kindy Teacher Aide, Shanetta Takari to the team. This year we have seven superstar students who are ready for

an amazing year of learning: Jiriah (Yr6), Bailey (Yr4), Tekea (Yr3), Evelyn (Yr3), Priya (Yr2), Taimani (Prep), and our newest Kindy student, Archie. All of our students have had a great start to the year and are enjoying our newly relocated library and music rooms! We are excited to announce that playgroup is back up and running this year every Wednesday from 9am to 11 am. We encourage any families of young children to come along and join us. Please feel free to stop by and say hello." **Diana Davis, Principal Ravenswood State School.**

There will be much opportunity for focused learning and a small but active P&C helping to raise funds to keep up the high standard of learning that is part of the Ravenswood State School reputation. You don't have to be a parent to be part of the P&C. If you're interested in helping, contact the school on 07 4754 9999 and enquire about joining the P&C.



Celebrating Jiriah's 11th birthday in Week 2 with delicious cupcakes.



Wet Season event

Within the first four days of February, Ravenswood Gold's weather station measured 153mm of rain which was above the entire months average rainfall. This gave a healthy boost to Suhrs Creek Dam levels. Before the rain event it was 47% full and is now sitting above 90%. The upside of the wet season is the lush greenery blanketing the town. The down side is road washouts. Please be careful as you drive around unsealed roads. A full dam sets us up well for the dry season and to ensure we can get through to the next big wet, be aware water restrictions still apply. Check the Council website for potable water use under the current Level 0 restrictions.



Suhrs Creek Dam over 90% full



Right: Environment Department undertaking routine monitoring.

Garden Working Bee

Over the past three years, Ravenswood Gold employees have given a hand to tidy up the Community Garden. This annual event is planned for last week in April to tackle some of the bigger projects that need to be undertaken. Community members are welcome to join us. Look for details in the March newsletter.



Above: 2023 Stuart Ford, OHST Superintendent moving soil in preparation for seeding. Right: Now there is lush green grass growing where soil was spread.



Employee Spotlight

Since Catherine Inkerman was young, she had dreamed of working in and around big trucks at a mine site. While working in an administration roll with a human services organisation, her heart yearned for more in life. When a pathway



opened up for her to join Ravenswood Gold's Birriah Traineeship Program, she jumped at the chance. Catherine's dreams have become a reality and is now in the drivers seat of a Hitachi EH3500 rear dump truck as a trainee haulage operator.

The Birriah Trainee Program gives opportunities for First Nations people to start a career in mining, giving young people experience in the various departments to help them find their niche. The objective is to have them gainfully employed with Ravenswood Gold, once their traineeship is completed. Catherine said, "I'm so happy to be working at the mine, and I'm just 1 1/2 hours drive from home. The roster of eight days on and six days off gives me the life balance I was looking for as I can help look after my nan and enjoy time with my family".

COMMUNITY

NEWS

AGM

Tuesday 25th February

General meeting

Tuesday 11th March

3:30pm at Community Hall

The Ravenswood
Restoration and
Preservation
Association



CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 3rd March 11:00am



Morning Mingle

Wednesday 19th March

Thorps Heritage Tea Room & Treasures.

10:00am




Royal Flying Doctor Service

RFDS Health Care Clinic

Wednesday 5th March.

Skin Check Clinic

Friday 11 April

Phone 40400444 for appointments



First Aid Training

Register your interest in the HLTAID011 accredited one day course by emailing community@ravenswoodgold.com. It is proposed to be held in April.



BE THE LIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Find out how you can lighten the load and volunteer to help our community organisations. Contact the coordinators to find out more. COMMUNITY GARDEN, Margie on 0488 147 539.

SES— Ivan on 0447 410 125 , POOL LIFEGUARD—Bianca on 0429 950 828. RRPA—Fay on 0497 310 931

Built in 1902, take a step back in time at the

Imperial Hotel.

07 4770 2131

Accommodation available

Ravenswood Post Office Store

Monday -Saturday 8am- 6:30pm

Sunday 9am - 6.30pm 07 4770 2136

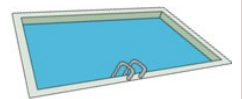


Top Camp Roadhouse & Caravan Park

Monday—Sunday

4:30am— 8:00 pm

07 4770 2168



Railway Hotel is a heritage hotel with accommodation and van sites. Visit the Whisky and Cigar Bar.
07 4770 2144.

Thorps Tearoom and Treasures

Wednesday—Sunday

10am— 3pm

0427 714 284

