

HOME HILL NEWS

A welcome from the Home Hill Business Community - No. 45, May, 2019

Focus on May Home Hill entertainment

THE Burdekin Shire's entertainment calendar will be almost solely focused on Home Hill over the month of May, as several major events in the town attract large numbers of visitors to the region for a variety of popular events. The month of activities has commenced already, with the Home Hill Tennis Association hosting the annual Sugar Bowl Teams Tennis Tournament, which attracted entries from all over the state, including Brisbane. The Burdekin Craft Spectacular moves to an earlier date in the year, as it presents displays of all varieties of craft for local and visiting enthusiasts at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

The entertainment will continue into Saturday, May 18, as the Burdekin Race Club again hosts the annual Burdekin Growers Race Day, with a program of seven races and thousands of dollars in prizes to be awarded for fashion on the field.

From Thursday, May 30 through to Saturday, June 1, the uniquely Burdekin *Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival* will be held at the former Home Hill Showgrounds, and in Ayr at a Burdekin Cultural Fair, which will celebrate the district's diverse culture through a range of cultural activities, food and entertainment.

Tennis Sugar Bowl success

Now in its 39th year, the Sugar Bowl Tournament attracted entries from 40 teams this year, for the competition held over the three days of the May Day long weekend.

Up to 300 players and their supporters converged on the Home Hill Tennis complex for the tournament, which commenced on Saturday, May 4 and continued through to Monday, May 6 (May Day long weekend).

Non-stop tennis took place over the period, with overflow games moved to the Ayr Tennis complex, as the two



Burdekin Race Club president, Torrie Davies (left) and Race Club member, Kevin Mann on the job at a recent working bee to ensure all areas of the Home Hill Race Track were in good condition for the Burdekin Growers Race Day on Saturday, May 18.

organisations co-operated to ensure all games were completed on time for the Monday finals.

The event again proved successful for all competitors, as regular team members travelled long distances to be a part of the popular teams tournament.

Craft Spectacular

The Burdekin Uniting Church will again host the Burdekin Craft Spectacular at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 11. Doors to the Hall will be open from 9am to 2pm for the event, which attracts craft enthusiasts from all over North Queensland to inspect the large range of stalls that are on display.

The event will feature a variety of demonstrations including Diamond Dot Painting; Beginners Basketry; An Intro to Wet Felting; Crystal and Suncatcher Care; and Wire Wrapping Pendant.

The display of stalls will include

many of the popular entries from the past, as well as a number of new presentations.

Four \$100 Gift Cards and more will be offered for Spot Prizes, while a Children's Treasure Hunt will also provide prizes for participants.

Food and drinks will also be available in the Dining Room, from the High Tea Trolley and at the Snack Bar.

Entry to the Craft Spectacular is \$8 per person with children under 13 years free of charge.

Burdekin Growers' Race Day

"A Little Bit Country" is the theme of this year's Landmark Burdekin Growers' Race Day, which is again expected to attract large crowds to the Home Hill Race Track on Saturday, May 18.

The Burdekin Race Club has again received the support of numerous sponsors for its biggest race day of the year.

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WE are being accused of being “negative” following our comments and those of Cr Uli Liessmann in the April edition of *The Home Hill News*, with regard to the lack of spending by the council on major projects on the south side of the river, compared to the north side.

Could it be that those comments are from residents of the north side who are more than happy that there are several major projects either under way in Ayr—or planned—maybe Home Hill district residents could also be in a positive frame of mind if council also contributed towards similar developments to benefit all other areas of the Shire.

However, we could also ask if the criticism of Cr Liessmann and ourselves could also be described as “negative” personal criticism, just because we believe that money should be spent on the southern side of the river to rejuvenate what is not a good situation with the Home Hill Central Business District.

The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce was told that there are 31 empty shops in the CBD, with 24 occupied—and some of the latter are home occupations.

Surely the rest of our “Burdekin” Shire Councillors should realise that something of significant value needs to be done in Home Hill’s CBD to breathe new life into the area, apart from the murals, which are a bright addition, but not a lifesaver.

The people of Groper Creek are also saying they are “forgotten” in this edition—while local Canegrowers have elsewhere requested council to “curb” their spending to keep the rates down.

Cr Liessmann has used his column to highlight CBD areas of concern that could be easily fixed with much smaller alloca-

The finer points of Home Hill . .



THE Home Hill Tennis Association started May with the first of a series of events that bring large numbers of visitors to the town throughout the month (which we have highlighted elsewhere in this issue). The Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament was in its 39th Year when 40 teams competed on the Home Hill and Ayr Tennis Courts over the May Day long weekend. While the competition continued, we caught this group of current and former Home Hill players enjoying the atmosphere of the tennis complex, as they looked back on their playing days when they took part in the first of many of the Sugar Bowl Tournaments. The past players (from left) Lyn Puddefoot, Pat Anderson and Lex Davies and Col Casswell (who was still helping to organise the event, as well as competing this year) maintain a keen interest in the sport and the Home Hill Association in all its activities.

tions of money, just to improve the outlook of our shopping district.

Cr Liessmann has pushed in the past for money to be spent on a footpath sweeper, which would help all towns in the Shire—but that was rejected, while the major projects in Ayr proceeded.

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin has used a quote from a young resident new to the area with regard to our so-called “negative” comments—but those sort of comments have been around for a long time on both sides of the river, the same as ones we can highlight, such as an Ayr businessman saying “he would not shop in Home Hill while his backside pointed to the ground” and “queries from travellers as to why Ayr residents will drive 100 kilometres to shop in Townsville before they will travel 12kms to shop in Home Hill”.

Could that be described as “negative”? That “separation between Ayr and Home Hill has been around for many decades” and it will continue into the future while councillors favour one area over the rest of the Shire—just like the disagreements over spending between the northern and southern areas of the state.

The Home Hill News came into exist-

ence because of the lack of publicity for the town in local newspapers after the closure of the former *The Observer* newspaper and we will continue to raise the town’s issues for as long as we are able. Other councillors say they have the concerns of Home Hill at heart—they need to show it in decisions that are fair to all areas, including Giru, Millaroo and Groper Creek and other parts of the Shire.

IT IS election time around the nation as voters make the decision on who is best to lead the country into the future. With the Home Hill region being part of the large Dawson electorate, it is again a case of voting for a party rather than a person, because there is little chance of knowing all of the candidates personally.

George Christensen (LNP) has represented the electorate for many years and he has regularly visited our town—hopefully other candidates will show the same interest in Home Hill in their electioneering, rather than including us with the interests of other areas. We badly need development and employment, just like the Adani Mine offers.

- DAVID JACKSON

Feast of entertainment throughout May

Continued from page 1

The day's events will feature an early start with the judging of the Produce Challenge at 9.30am, followed by the official opening by Race Club President, Torrie Davies at 12.30pm along with the National Anthem.

The first of the seven-race program will be run at 12.30pm, with the last race, the Carlton & United Breweries Burdekin Cup, over 1830 metres at 4.48pm.

The winners of the E.E. Muir & Sons Produce Challenge will be announced at 1pm.

Entrants in the various Fashion awards will be paraded and awards announced on the main stage in between the race program throughout the afternoon.

Race Day patrons will also have the opportunity to go home as winners, with a "Treasure Chest" of two x \$500 cash prizes to be won through a key given to the first 1000 people through the gate on the day—if it unlocks the Treasure Chest.

Then there is the "Guess the Weight of the Cane in the Bin" competition, for which the winner will receive \$250 cash.

At the end of the afternoon at 5pm, racegoers can go home with a box of seasonal and fresh Burdekin Produce, provided free of charge by Burdekin Horticultural Producers.

That will not be the end of the entertainment though, as Wilmar will sponsor the entertainment continuing into the night with Mareeba Band, *Careless*.

Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival

The Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival will continue on Thursday, May 30 and on Saturday, June 1 at the former Home Hill Showgrounds and on Friday, May 31 in Ayr.

"The Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival drew more than 2000 people to the First Fire and a further 3000 at the Australian Hand Cane Cut-



Spectators will again be able to go back in history to witness hand cane cutting as participants show their skills in cutting a cane crop with a cane knife.

ting Championships in 2018.

The Burdekin Cultural Fair plans to celebrate the Burdekin's diverse culture through a range of activities, food and entertainment. Renewable energy company, Pacific Hydro had committed to a three-year partnership with Council as Presenting Sponsor of the Festival.

Evolution Mining will be the Presenting Sponsor of the First Fire event and Queensland Sugar Limited is the Presenting Sponsor of the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships.

The Cane Cutting Championships kick off at 11am on Saturday, June 1 at the Home Hill Showgrounds. There are seven different cane cutting divisions this year.

To nominate, phone the Council's Tourism Department on 4783 9800 or email tourism@burdekin.qld.gov.au. Competitors can also nominate on the day.

LYNN & MIKE'S CRAFT STUDIO

Home Hill — Phone 0418 783 799

will be attending the
Burdekin Craft Spectacular
in Home Hill
on Saturday, May 11
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Where you can get your coffee fix in Home Hill . .

COFFEE drinkers in Home Hill have a new point to purchase and enjoy their favourite relaxing drink, with the Home Hill Olympic Swimming Pool opening a new service for local residents and visitors alike to meet their requirements.

Pool Lessees, Lloyd and Lisa Shepherd have opened a new coffee making machine, together with tables and chairs for customers to relax and enjoy the pool surroundings with their coffee.

During a recent short pool closure to allow for council maintenance to the pool, the couple and five of their seven staff all participated in Barista training to allow them to "offer the community another source to purchase a coffee".

"The coffee is supplied from Townsville and the company involved also provided the training." With the installation and training now completed, the new service is available to everyone from the pool entry area.

The pool is open to the public from 5.30am to 9am and 1pm to 6pm throughout the winter season.

"In addition to the coffee machine, we have also purchased an outdoor setting for customers to enjoy the coffee," Lloyd Shepherd said. He said the maintenance work had "freshened" the place up.



Lloyd and Lisa Shepherd with their new coffee machine, which has been installed at the Home Hill Swimming Pool Kiosk, while all staff have received barista training.

Residents of the Home Hill community are assured that if they want a tasty coffee when they are in need, they can also visit **Dee & Vee's Takeaway in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill**.

The coffee will complement the menu that the business offers in their seven-day-a-week operation.

Sisters, Debbie Stevenson and Veronica Melvin have Meals and coffee available at the following times -

Monday and Tuesday: 10am till 2pm;
Wednesday and Thursday: 10am to 7.30pm;
Friday: 10am till 8pm;
Saturday: 11am till 7.30pm.
Sunday: 4pm till 7.30pm.

WITH the recent closure of two business operations in Home Hill that offered locals and visitors alike a coffee when they were in need, last month we asked the town's businesses, who provide a coffee service, to let us know, so that we can each month provide a reminder to coffee drinkers of where and when they can fill their requirements.

Another mural added to town landscape

HOME HILL now has another impressive mural, with the completion of a new art work on the Ninth Street side of the Home Hill Backpackers building (pictured).

Townsville-based artist, John Bradshaw spent just over one week producing the 90 square metre mural across the front and part of the side facade of the Backpackers building.

The artwork features a smiling crowd of faces and is inspired by the Burdekin's many festivals and events.

This is the fourth mural created by Mr Bradshaw in the Burdekin after the talented artist was engaged by Council late last year to create the Sweet Days, Hot Nights and Home Grown murals in Eighth Avenue, as well as the Comfort Stop's Burdekin Snow mural back in 2017.

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the newest addition would be a welcome sight for visitors to the region. "Watson Green's



has been at the very heart of the Home Hill Harvest Festival for many years, so it's very fitting that this art work will overlook that area," she said. "This mural will not only be a bright addition for those staying at the Home Hill Backpackers accommodation - it will also be a point of interest for guests of the Burdekin Memorial Hall and for travelling motorists, drawing them off the Bruce Highway and into the town's CBD, which will ultimately benefit local business."

Your Say . . .

IN RESPONSE to comments by Cr Uli Liessmann in the recent edition of *Home Hill News*, whereby he refers to Home Hill residents as "second class" citizens, when it comes to Council budget allocations, I would like to ask where Groper Creek stands on Council's priority list?

Don't get me wrong – we are grateful for every bit of Council assistance we have had to fight to get following floods and cyclones, however, if it wasn't for the small band of dedicated locals, Groper Creek simply would not exist.

We are forgotten and put in the "too hard" basket by our Council – even our Home Hill Cr Uli forgot to mention us!

February's flood at Groper saw 1.5m of water under huts. Groper Creek Rural Fire Brigade volunteers and locals – assisted by neighbouring Scott and Millaroo brigades – rolled up their sleeves in true Mud Army fashion and set about restoring the community.

This main clean-up operation took over a week amidst the grief and sadness associated with the full-scale search for missing local man, Justin Scott.

A visit by councillors to Groper Creek will see there is still more repair work to be completed.

Featured on our Burdekin tourism signage and booklets, Groper Creek is a quirky "must-see" destination for grey nomads, backpackers and travellers who love to stroll on our jetty; check out our stilt houses; fish, prawn or crab; picnic or simply marvel at the abundant birdlife and scenery.

Caravanners stay for months on end – many have been coming to Groper Creek for decades, supporting our local businesses, community events and organisations. Generations of local families – from both sides of the Burdekin River – have also enjoyed Groper Creek and hopefully this will continue.

JUST a FEW things from the Council's budget—Alva Beach: New pathway between the tourist park and barbecue area at Alva Beach Park and bitumen sealed car park to be installed between Lifesavers Club building and the park \$185,000; Alva Beach: playground makeover and new equipment, \$90,000; Ayr: Pathway through Ross Street Park – part of the Burdekin Be Active Trail \$60,000; Ayr: Master Plan for a dedicated sport and recreation precinct in Anzac Park Precinct, \$45,000; Ayr: New visitor information facility in Plantation Park and Nature Based Play space, Several million; Ayr: Construction of concrete pedestrian pathway from caravan park to pathway in Dirlill Street, \$125,000; Ayr: Replacement of concrete footpath in Queen Street from McKenzie to Railway Street, \$330,000; Ayr - Upgrade drainage in Spiller Street between Graham and Queen Streets \$60,000; Ayr: Completion of Edwards Street drainage upgrade, One million; Ayr: Reconstruct Gibson Street pavement between Beach

Where does Groper Creek stand?

Our aging facilities could certainly do with major upgrades to entice tourists to stay longer. Our kids would love a new adventure pirate-ship playground ... or anything new for that matter.

Perhaps some shade over the end of the jetty; more seating for the general public to enjoy; a Giant Groper or murals to maybe add us to the Burdekin "art trail"?

And what will become of our iconic jetty if it isn't maintained? Dare I even mention dredging of our boating channel and extension of our boat ramps?

About 50 Burdekin Shire Council ratepayers proudly call Groper Creek "home".

Despite plummeting land valuations, all kerbed and channelled various size blocks still pay the same general rate as dirt access properties, with bin collection the only Council service provided.

Townsville City Council has an annual kerbside collection service, whilst our Council can't even assist with the occasional pick-up following natural disasters.

From humble beginnings, the Home Hill Boat Club commemorates 75 years of progress this year. Whilst government grants have, in the past, helped the Boat Club to make park improvements, the club is facing ever increasing red tape and operating costs, which have been financially crippling, especially after floods.

Groper Creek would certainly have not flourished without the hard work and dedication of the Home Hill Boat Club, its community members and volunteers over the years.

At every opportunity, I would encourage all families to come and visit Groper Creek. I would also encourage our elected Burdekin Shire councillors to come and see the potential projects waiting for your support here at Groper Creek.

Jeanette Garvey, Groper Creek

Budget spending query

Road and Cox Street \$289,000; Ayr: Infrastructure and drainage upgrade Ayr Show Grounds; Upgrade public toilets in Queen Street, paid from part of Queensland Government \$3 million the Council received to support regional councils to create jobs and give support to regional towns; Not known: How much of this money did Home Hill get to create jobs and support our regional town? Home Hill – Kerbing and channelling and improved drainage Sixteenth Street, – a very short street \$485,000; Home Hill: Improvements to concrete footpath in Ninth Avenue near Watsons Green \$15,000; Home Hill: Sweet Days, Hot Nights to receive \$30,000. However Ayr will have the Street foods event attached to this event this year (what's wrong with having it at the Home Hill Showgrounds or near Watsons Green where the Harvest Festival hold their after parade event?). Ayr: Installation of solar lights at Ayr Skate

Park with smart controls that allow lights to run at full power for three hours after dusk before dimming for one final hour then turning off these lights and new shade sails have made the park able to extend the usability for benefit of the community. Paid for by the Queensland Government's Get Playing Places and Spaces program.

Home Hill: Playground at the Home Hill Rotary Playground does not even have a sail and Home Hill kids have to play in the sun there. Some of the inferior equipment must be too hot to touch in the summer. Did Home Hill receive any of this Get Playing Places and Spaces program money?

The Council has received nearly \$20,000 to come up with a plan to keep local business in town. Does this apply to Home Hill where businesses are closing much faster than Ayr? I hope this will give Home Hill people some idea of how we are being ignored and duped by this Ayr-centric council.

Born in Home Hill

(Name and address supplied).

Mayoral report . .

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin addresses issues of interest to Home Hill residents and/or our visitors -



One Burdekin – One Community

I WANT to provide an alternate view to what was written in the last edition of *The Home Hill News* - April 2019, in relation to what, in my opinion, is promoting negativity by two contributors.

What surprises me most is that both the writers have experience as councillors on Burdekin Shire Council and should understand democratic process/the process of decision making.

So why do they continue to encourage rivalry between the twin towns? Everyone knows that the distance from central Ayr to central Home Hill is the same as the distance from central Home Hill to central Ayr – 12.4km as per google maps.

In a city, it is further from the suburbs to a city centre and extra time is needed to cope with the enormous traffic congestion.

I think the writers should listen to a wider cross section of residents. Since *The Home Hill News* was published, I have spoken to many people who expressed disappointment in the negativity of the articles.

This is an email I received from a person in their 20's, which echoes the opinions of many who spoke to me.

"In the past year, my family have purchased a house in Home Hill

and am excited for us to continuing living in the Burdekin.

I personally do not understand the "separation" between Home Hill and Ayr. In my opinion the constant comparisons to Ayr and the negativity is ruining the Home Hill township. If I was a visitor to the town and read the second page of the last Home Hill News, I wouldn't want to stay in such a negative town.

The services we have are fantastic! Yes, some shops have closed, but so have many in Ayr. Ayr and Home Hill are twin towns, residents should be supporting each other to grow and thrive instead of turning people off living, developing and investing in Home Hill." It is no secret that businesses are closing in all towns and cities across Australia – not just in Home Hill!

While some shops have closed in Home Hill, there have been three major developments by private enterprise – do they see Home Hill as "second class citizens"? I think not.

I know many young people who have chosen to buy residences in Home Hill and are prepared to drive to Ayr for work, entertainment and sport.

Similarly, there are residents in Ayr who drive to Home Hill for work, entertainment and sport!

When faced with challenges in whatever we undertake, it is wise to stick together as much more will be gained by being optimistic and positive.

Home Hill is part of Burdekin Shire along with many other townships including Giru, Brandon, Clare, Millaroo and Ayr. By sticking together, we can promote a positive image, which will hopefully attract more investment and population.

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The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce acknowledges and appreciates the support of Wilmar Sugar's Inkerman Mill with the printing of the *Home Hill News*.

Councillor comment ..

Cr Uli Liessmann reports on council activities –



WE live in interesting times.

Let me start by saying the 2019/20 budget is not far off and the decisions to be made are not easy, if one is to be fair and just? Can our local economy sustain the ever increasing rates? Yes, I am sure there will have to be some increases, but basically, we have a stagnant population and a very slow economy, where fewer will have to pay more now and in the future.

Basically there are too many wants and not enough money. I get asked what services you want to cut. I don't mean or want to cut any services, as services are jobs and jobs mean people. But put a hold on major money projects or at the very least bring these projects down to an affordable level, one per year because how many 'wow' projects can a shire of our size sustain?

The forecast for sugar pricing does not look encouraging for the next couple of years. Wage growth is very minimal, so what to do. When wages are low, so is the spending and this is the flow-on that effects us all. I don't have the answer except trying to live within the budget and tighten the belt.

We are trying to attract more tourists - clean footpaths would help—



The town clock (far left) is not working at present; (Above) Pigeon droppings littering the CBD footpaths and (Far right) a Town banner that needs replacing.

but that is a big call with 31 (at present) vacant shops in our CBD and I would doubt that they will ever open again.

I'm not being negative here, but always a realist, as it is no good sticking your head in the sand and hoping it will go back to the good old times. It will just not happen unless someone puts the money on the table to make a change.

So how does one measure a vibrant CBD? I would think it means all retail shops, or at the very least a large number, are open to do business. Small backyard businesses add nothing to a CBD, but are still needed for the overall economy and the well being of the whole district.

One thought comes to mind—transform empty shops to affordable town houses to help bring people back into town and end up with a more residential main street and less empty shops. This could work for a better look, or I also like the idea of a micro brewery. We do have a lot of sugar in this district.

On the other hand, Landlords also have a duty of care to their surroundings and the rest of the community to keep their many empty shops looking clean and presentable.

To start the ball rolling, I will give you two bob for every workable idea on this side of the river and the other side.

These are my views only. To contact me, phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or email councillor.liessmann@burdekin.qld.gov.au www.uliliessmann.com.au

ULI LIESSMANN

Boost for community and sporting groups

COMMUNITY and sporting groups across the Burdekin Shire have received a boost for their events, projects and initiatives thanks to the Burdekin Shire Council's Community Grants Program.

More than \$14,000 worth of funding and in-kind support was approved by the Council as part of Round Three of the 2018/19 program.

It brings the Council's total commitment over the past 12 months to more than \$50,000 in funding and nearly \$23,000 of in-kind support – a commitment which has directly benefited 20 groups.

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the funding enabled groups to expand, which in turn benefited the broader community.

"One of the Burdekin's biggest assets is the volunteer mindset present in our community and sporting groups," she said.

"These groups deliver a wide range of events throughout the year – an effort which should be applauded.

"Council values the contribution community and sporting groups make within our Shire and we are pleased to be in a position to support these organisations through our Community Grants

Program."

Under the program, community, sporting and not-for-profit groups can apply for up to \$5000 in funding to develop new or existing programs or activities, minor or local festivals or events, projects that promote local sustainability initiatives and projects or events that support civic pride and enhanced social and economic activity.

The Community Grants Program has three rounds of funding each financial year.

Round One of the 2019/20 program will open on June 3.

Fifteenth birthday celebrations for 'Rover' at My Pets

ROSS and Tracey Tapiolas's pet husky, 'Rover', has been a favourite among customers of My Pets in Home Hill for most of his 15-plus years.

So much so that when he reached that birthday milestone recently, a large crowd turned out to help celebrate the occasion at a Saturday morning party at the store.

Rover welcomes customers when they visit the shop, although he found himself on the wrong side of authorities some years ago, when a complaint was made about him roaming outside the premises.

While he continues to welcome customers, his health ensures Rover keeps within the confines of the business.

The celebration included a special dog's birthday



Tracey Tapiolas (right) helps Rover enjoy his birthday cake, while other pet owners join in the celebrations.

cake for Rover and his dog mates, while another cake satisfied the hunger of other human visitors to My Pets, while face painting was available to younger pet owners.

Places to see, things to do in the Home Hill district

Burdekin Craft Spectacular—Saturday May 11—Burdekin Memorial Hall, Home Hill—Hosted by Burdekin Uniting Church

Burdekin Growers Race Day - Saturday, May 18 — Enjoy country racing and spectacular fashions at their best on the Home Hill Track.

Burdekin Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival - Home Hill Showgrounds, Thursday/Saturday, May 30 and June 1;

170 Arts on the Avenue—The Burdekin Artisans Community invite you to inspect their display of various arts and craft forms at the Ashworths Rock Shop complex from 9am to 5pm each day from Wednesday to Saturday.

Sing Along with the Home Hill Choral Society — every Wednesday evening at the Choral Society Hall in Ninth Avenue—from 7pm to 8.30pm. Everyone welcome to join in.

The Big Canecutters—Visit the former Home Hill Showgrounds (southern end of town across the railway line) to see the representation of the former canecutters that cut the Burdekin district's sugar cane crop before the advent of mechanical cane harvesting.

Old Time Dancing at the St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Tenth Avenue, Home Hill every Saturday evening;

Burdekin National Servicemen's Association meets at the Home Hill Community Sports Club on the first Sunday of each month from February to December, starting at 9.30 am. Contact Secretary (4782 2368) or President (4783 5529).

Mount Inkerman—approximately 12km south of Home Hill, near the township of Inkerman. Access to the top is via a narrow road, which is not suitable for caravans and a "Nature Trail" for walkers. The narrow road has been widened in sections and a number of new safety barriers installed. Recommend visiting as there are outstanding views of the surroundings such as cane and other farms.

Charlie's Hill World War II site, about seven kilometres south of Home Hill – former radar station during the second world war—Old igloos and gun emplacement still in place;

Pioneer Avenue Plaques – learn about the history of many of the pioneers of Home Hill and the Burdekin District by reading the plaques situated along the western side of the ti-trees in Home Hill's main street

Burdekin River and the Burdekin bridge - part of the Bruce Highway plus Home Hill Lions Club Diorama at southern end of bridge, which features five new panels detailing the pioneering sugar industry work of John Drysdale and the town's early history;

Groper Creek - worth a look as it is a unique small village —one of the many creeks in the Burdekin Delta allowing access to the numerous fishing areas throughout the district—very popular with visitors who return each year to enjoy our climate over several months;

Beachmount/Wunjunga—Visitors can move off the Bruce Highway south of Home Hill to spend time at the community's beaches—Beachmount and the community of Wunjunga. Travel east off the highway south of Inkerman across gravel roads until meeting the sea in the vicinity of Funny Dunny Park where tourists can enjoy a stay in pleasant surroundings.

Home Hill Swimming Pool (Eleventh Avenue) is open throughout the winter months.

For the sports man and woman - Join in the friendly atmosphere at the **Home Hill Golf Course** (4782 1632—amongst the cane fields on Iona Road), at the **Home Hill Bowling Green** (4782 1185—in Ninth Avenue); or at the excellent **Home Hill Tennis complex** in the centre of the Home Hill Race Track.

Home Hill Service Clubs—The **Home Hill Lions Club** meets at the Crown Hotel on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The **Home Hill Rotary Club** meets at their Club House (58 Thirteenth Avenue, Home Hill) on the first Tuesday of each month and at the Malpass Hotel, Home Hill at 6.30pm on each other Tuesday night of the month. Visitors are welcome at both clubs.

Burdekin Toastmasters hold their dinner meetings at The Crown Hotel on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Comments on our town or services would be appreciated, Email ddjacko@bigpond.com or secretary@homehillchamber.com