

HOME HILL NEWS

A welcome from the Home Hill Business Community - No. 47, July, 2019

Car Wash addition to town CBD



INSET: Bonato family members at the entrance to the automatic car washing area at the recently opened car wash in Home Hill.

WHILE much has been made of the closure of many businesses in Home Hill in recent times, the town has received a positive bonus with the official opening of the Home Hill Car Wash at 51 to 53 Eighth Avenue.

The new facility has been developed by Richard and Karen Bonato and Family of Ayr, the same family that developed the impressive IGA Supermarket Complex in the

Central Business District and brings an added business attraction to the town to benefit both local residents and the many travellers who frequent the town, especially at this time of the year.

The new Car Wash offers customers an Auto Wash Bay complete with four wash options to suit all vehicle types.

It provides a variety of wash features at

varying prices for vehicle owners to select from.

It also features two manual wash bays and three vac stations, while it also provides the added benefit of a dog washing area.

The Car wash also provides a vendors and change machine, while there are also card payment facilities throughout without any additional fees.

Budget upgrade for town water

A MAJOR allocation of \$2.9 million to help secure the future of the Home Hill water supply has been approved in the 2019/20 Burdekin Shire Council Budget for the construction of a five megalitre storage reservoir.

Presenting a budget that allowed for a two per cent rise in rates, Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the \$3.3 million project, to be constructed over two years near the existing Home Hill Water Tower, will deliver a 12-fold increase in water storage capacity and improve the resilience of the local community.

“As our Shire is located in a disaster-prone area, Council is continuously looking at ways to improve our capacity to endure and recover from natural disasters,” Cr McLaughlin said.

“This five megalitre storage reservoir will increase our off-line water supply capacity from four hours to more than 40 hours, enabling us to ensure continuity of supply through and following disasters or other unplanned events.”

Council received nearly \$2 million from the Queensland Government through the 2019-21 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.

Water security in Home Hill will further benefit from the

2019/20 Budget, with Council allocating \$150,000 funding for Stage two of the Production Bore Pump Replacement Program.

Five pumps at the Home Hill Water Tower borefield site will be upgraded to submersible pumps in the first year of the ongoing program.

“In addition to being more resilient than the current end-of-life pumps, the new pumps will also generate less noise which is a win for nearby residents.”

Council will also begin the transition to smart water meters in the 2019/20 financial year, allocating \$200,000 towards the first year of the ongoing program.

Cr McLaughlin said the new technology meters had many benefits over traditional water meters.

Swimming Pool improvements

The council has budgeted \$90,000 to construct additional bathroom amenities at the shire's two public swimming facilities.

The mayor said the new unisex amenities, which will include an all-abilities accessible shower, toilet and hand basin, as well as a baby change table, will help make the swimming pools a more inclusive place.

Council has also budgeted a further \$15,000 to under-

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THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce members are to write to the Burdekin Shire Council asking for action to be taken on a variety of fronts to try to clean up the town's main street.

At the present time, the street looks a mess, with untidy footpaths, torn signs on posts and pigeon droppings on almost every corner—not a very welcoming position for the many visitors that come to town to make use of the Comfort Stop at this time of the year.

The whole situation is exacerbated by the increasing number of empty shops, which results in the frontages of those buildings presenting a dirty and uninviting outlook.

Unfortunately, absent landlords do not worry about the condition of frontages, which means the onus is placed on council to do something to maintain a respectable standard for anyone making use of the Central Business District.

Cr Uli Liessmann's desire for a footpath cleaning machine would probably solve the cleanliness problem for all shire communities, but there is obviously nothing in the budget brought down this week for the expensive machine, so it looks like the council may have to employ brooms and buckets and "elbow grease" to solve the problem for the time being.

The wish list from the Chamber to the Council also seeks action on repairing the town clock, which worked recently for four hours before giving the time a miss again; increasing the volume on Sweet FM radio speakers at the Comfort Stop; shade cover at the Arch Dunn Memorial Park (which were in place at one stage before vandals set fire to them); and improving the look of the southern entrance to the town.

AT LEAST anything on wheels will be extra clean in the town

The finer points of Home Hill . .

HOME HILL's postcode is now prominently displayed in the Central Business District for all to see, thanks to the Burdekin Shire Council and the owners of the land at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Eighth Street.

It is most unusual for the Council to go ahead with such a project without announcing its arrival—but that is the case for the "4806" that is now displayed on posts on the corner adjacent to the LM Partners building.

It is a novel addition to the CBD and since its arrival, it has been used as a backdrop for individuals and organisations, such as a recent Debutante who

in the future, thanks to the continuing substantial contribution made to the town's positive progress by the Bonato Family of Ayr.

Richard and Karen Bonato were originally responsible for the IGA Supermarket that now services a wider area than just the Home Hill district and now they have taken the town forward again with the official opening recently of the Central Business District's first Car Wash (and Dog Wash) facility.

One of the main topics of conversation in the town in recent times has been the increasing number of empty shops in the CBD and visitors returning are also surprised by just how fast the town is emptying of business options.

Just like the Supermarket complex, the Car Wash adds another dimension to the main street and it is pleasing to see vehicle owners lining up to make the most of the new service.

The Chamber of Commerce is also endeavouring to take away some of the "empty shops" look with the assistance of the artistic talents at the Home Hill High School, with several large painted backdrops ready to be placed across the front of vacant shops to provide a "lived in" outlook to people using the main street.

Hopefully, they will help brighten up the CBD, with the assistance of any action the Council can take to clean up the mess mentioned earlier.

THE Council has presented its budget for the next 12 months and one of the most significant amounts to be spent is

featured the photo on social media, while the Chamber of Commerce is also using it for promotional purposes in a forthcoming regional magazine production.

The Council should be congratulated for adding the feature to our main street as a constant reminder to travellers of the town's Postcode.



\$2.9 million for a new storage reservoir to be constructed over two years to improve the Home Hill water storage capacity 12-fold.

Planning costing \$30,000 has also been allocated to stage one of a Be-Active Trail in Home Hill—nowhere near the \$450,000 being spent on extending the existing Be-Active Trail in Ayr. With a Council election due in March next year, it is to be hoped those newly-elected councillors do not forget the \$30,000 already spent and turn the design plans towards actually starting a Home Hill Trail.

IT HAS been well over a month since Australia voted for a new Federal Government to lead the nation for the next three years—which makes the fact that there are still electioneering signs prominently displayed around the countryside even more appalling. Parties and candidates act quickly to get their signage up at the start for the benefit of their campaigning—but they are not so fast when it comes to removing the visual pollution once the election is over, especially when they are not successful. One candidate for Dawson still has several large signs prominently displayed around the Home Hill district and it is to be hoped he takes the time to finalise his campaign and remove the offending posters. It does not say much for how fast he would have acted on behalf of constituents if he had been successful?

- DAVID JACKSON

Texan visitors experience life on Lisgar

A GROUP of United States visitors reacquainted themselves recently with the cattle industry in the Home Hill district, while renewing an association that commenced over 32 years ago when two then youthful visitors first travelled to this district to stay with Eddie and Dorothy Rea and family on Lisgar Cattle Station, south of Home Hill. Hailing from the cattle country of Texas in the United States, the visitors, Judson Hubbard and Dub Sewell first learnt about life on an Australian Cattle Station when they travelled to the Home Hill district for a month in May/June, 1987, after they were given Eddie Rea's name by a Townsville Rotary Exchange Student, Paul Whelan, who was undertaking a 12-month exchange in a town close to where they lived in the U.S.

That original trip was arranged by the Wills Point Rotary Club through the boys' Rotarian fathers and arrangements were made with Eddie Rea for the boys to spend a month with the Rea family.

They were subsequently photographed with the Lisgar Stud's display at the 1987 Home Hill Show.

The cameras were out again on this visit, as Judson and Mica Hubbard returned for their second and first visits to Australia respectively, accompanied by Alicia McGinnes, a friend and manager of a Cattle Ranch of 1400 acres



Exchanging cattle industry experiences in Australia were (from left) Robert and Eddie Rea with Texas visitors, Mica and Judson Hubbard and Alicia McGinnes and Robert Rea (junior). (Inset) Dub Sewell and Judson Hubbard with 1987 patron of the Home Hill Show, the late Norm Bojack.

and 500 head of cattle, on her first visit.

Judson Hubbard was accompanied by his wife, Mica to again stay with the Rea family, where they became involved in the day-to-day activities on the Droughtmaster Stud during their 16-day stay

Mr Hubbard said he always knew he liked "fooling with cattle", which was why he came to Australia the first time 32 years ago.

While he is currently involved in a concrete business in Texas, he also worked with people who had about 10 head of cattle or less and he assisted in areas such as transport and medical.

"I have all the equipment and come out to see the people a couple of times a year," he said.

Ms McGinnes, the manager of the "Rabbitfoot Ranch", said she had

always wanted to see Australia and she was offered the chance to come with her friends.

She described it as a "learning experience", with a lot of things they do, but in a different way. They also took the opportunity to visit the Bowen River Rodeo and the Burdekin Dam during their stay.

She was hopeful of returning again in the future and they were also hopeful that Dub Sewell would be able to return in the future, when his four daughters were older.

Mr Hubbard's son, Clint had visited the area three years ago, when he was 18, but he had since passed away in an accident.

The visitors were kept busy during their stay as the three generations of the Rea family were heavily involved in maintaining their herd with their modern equipment and standards.

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Pieces from the past proving dangerous

MANY moons ago, before the Burdekin had town water, tank stands stood proudly in backyards supplying necessary water to the households across the region.

However, those days are gone and while the few remaining tank stands may serve as a reminder of a bygone era, the relics are growing dangerously old and quite possibly becoming a hazard in your own backyard.

Paul Felesina, from Paul's Yard Clean Up, says there's no time like the present to demolish the old tank stands when the weather is dry, making it easy for machinery to get in and out of yards.

"There was a time when the tank

stands were necessary, they served a purpose, but that time has passed and some that I have taken away have been dangerously close to falling over," he said.

"Sometimes, all it might take is a bump from a vehicle or a strong wind from a cyclone.

"Concrete can crack and undermine the weight of the tank or its platform, the wood gets eaten by termites or can get dry rot and the metal can



Pieces from the past can be dangerous.

rust, along with the bolts holding it all together," he said.

Paul's Yard Clean Up has been asked to clear away many tank stands in the Burdekin, leaving the homeowners with a nice clean area that they no longer have to mow around.

The site is left clean, soil is brought in to level any holes and all work is guaranteed.

Paul Felesina also has experience in demolishing old sheds, lean-to's, thunderboxes, cement paths that lead to nowhere, windmills, satellite dishes, old cottages, filling in water wells and removing derelict machinery from farming land.

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Racing back on the track

THE Burdekin Race Club will return to the track on Saturday, July 6 with their first race meeting following the very successful 2019 Landmark Burdekin Grower Race Day in May.

"By all accounts, from an attending patrons point of view, it was an extremely successful event and positively talked about in the local and surrounding communities," Burdekin Club President, Torrie Davies told a recent meeting of the club.

The report presented to the meeting by Treasurer Leanne Gudge reflected the overall success of the day, as Mr Davies congratulated the club committee and helpers for the huge effort that was put into preparations for the event.

The club is now planning for the July 6 meeting with club members to take part in a working bee ahead of the day to prepare the Home Hill track for the afternoon of racing.

The track is in good condition after maintenance work undertaken by members earlier this year and an excellent afternoon of racing will be enjoyed by all who attend to make use of the pleasant surroundings under the Fig Trees..

Budget works across the Home Hill region

Continued from Page 1

take a preliminary design and investigate the cost to change the length of the Home Hill pool from the existing 55 yards to the Olympic-sized 50 metres.

Keeping the Shire moving

The Budget will invest \$9 million in 2019/20 to maintain and upgrade critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, footpaths, aerodrome and drainage to ensure residents and visitors have safer and smoother journeys.

Cr McLaughlin said about a third of the \$19.9 million capital works spend would be allocated to transport and drainage infrastructure roads across the Shire, including \$5.2 million for roads, \$180,000 for drainage and \$1.3 million for pathways.

While the council has allocated \$450,000 funding to the extension of the Be-Active Trail in Ayr, \$30,000 has been allocated to the planning and design of the Home Hill Be-Active Trail stage 1. Council will also improve access to the Mount Inkerman lookout with \$100,000 budgeted to extend the nature trail at Mount Inkerman.

Arts and culture

More than \$1.1 million has been allocated towards arts and culture projects in the 2019/20 Budget including the development of a Burdekin Arts and Cultural Strategy.

With the Burdekin Theatre and Burdekin Memorial Hall being the cultural centres of the Shire, Council has allocated \$48,000 in funding to replace the lighting consoles at each venue, which will enhance the venues' offerings and improve patron experiences. A further \$50,000 has been budgeted to upgrade the LED lighting in the Burdekin Memorial Hall.

Revitalising our parks

With \$160,000 allocated to implementing the first wave of priorities identified in the Anzac Park Master Plan in Ayr, other parks across the Shire are set to benefit under the Budget, with council allocating \$220,000 of State Government Works for Queensland Funding towards upgrades and new installations. Those projects include the installation of a new picnic shelter and barbecue in Lloyd Mann Park, an outdoor fitness circuit in Home Hill and the update of the Groper Creek public amenities.

Kirknie Road

The Council will spend \$5.1 million delivering and upgrading waste services and infrastructure in this financial year. Council had allocated significant funds in the Budget to improve Council's compliance with existing licence conditions at the Kirknie Road Landfill and that 2019/20 should see the completion of the required capital compliance works.

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Burdekin Region Mills

Weekly Production Figures

Weeks 3 ending June 22, 2019

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	144,894	224,903
Pioneer	73,301	113,489
Kalamia	72,443	193,522
Inkerman	82,047	177,585
Burdekin	372,685	709,479
CCS		
Invicta	13.29	13.15
Pioneer	13.66	13.48
Kalamia	13.48	13.26
Inkerman	13.78	13.53
Burdekin	13.51	13.33

Comments —

WEEK 2—The factories have settled into operations, and had a combined throughput of about 269,000 tonnes for week 2.

The highest CCS sample for the week was 16.5 from a rake of KQ228 first ratoon cane, recorded in the Inkerman area.

WEEK 3—Just over 370,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the four Burdekin mills last week. Kalamia and Inkerman mills, as well as Invicta's B side, will stop for scheduled cleans on Tuesday this week.

The highest CCS sample for the week was 16.7 from a rake of Q240 plant cane, recorded in the Invicta area.

With school holidays due to commence on Friday, parents and guardians are urged to remind children about the importance of staying well clear of train corridors and agricultural operations.

Peter Luke,
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region

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 –



Community investment at its best

THERE are good things happening in Home Hill. That might not sound exciting, but the council workforce is installing a 250mm sewer rising main in Fourteenth Avenue (pictured below), with minimal disruption to the residents in that area.

All precautions are taken to protect existing infrastructure with the help of line detection gear and a vacuum truck as needed.

Congratulations to Scott and his team, as the local residents are really happy with the finished job.

Thumbs up for this council crew.

On the other side of town, a major infrastructure upgrade at the water tower, now holding 390,000 litres, to an additional new above ground water reservoir to hold an additional 5,000,000 litres plus pipes and pumping installation.

The benefits of this project are to be realised as soon as possible, with a completion date by June 30, 2021. The Queensland Government has approved funding of 60 per cent and the remaining 40 per cent will be covered by council funds.

This project will boost the local economy, even if only in a small way with a couple of new jobs—A positive outcome for Home Hill.



Some other good news—the lizard sculpture (pictured right) that was stolen from the Comfort Stop has been replaced, all in a very short time—another thumbs up. Maybe you have noticed but the town clock is again on the blink. Words just fail me that nearly three months on and it is still not fixed, and I am not happy. Now if we could just get the footpaths cleaned on a regular basis, we would have happy ratepayers and satisfied visitors.



The damaged banners are to be taken down in the very near future and I do not know at the present time if they will be replaced.

My Response for this 2019 Budget

The highlight of the month was the 2019 budget.

The intensity over the last few months working on this one tough budget was not easy for me and drawing on a lot of advice, my conclusion is as follows—

I would support the Burdekin Shire Council had it been a reasonable and balanced budget.

I will not support a budget where the ratepayers capacity to pay is tested in every way.

This is a budget that will push up the cost of living for the average ratepayer, business and rural sector throughout the Burdekin Shire. Because, in my opinion, I believe I cannot and would not support higher fees for this shire when the economy is at such a low point with a declining population and where more will be paid by fewer.

These are my views only.

To contact me, phone (mobile) 0439 822 064, email councillor.liessmann@burdekin.qld.gov.au or go to www.uliliessmann.com.au

- ULI LIESSMANN

Hot and Sweet successes

The Tully-based Gilbert family took out top honours by winning three separate divisions at the recent Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships over the weekend of the Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival in Home Hill in June.

In only his third year of competing, 18-year-old Stuart Gilbert won the Under 35 Years division in a time of 10-06.25 to cut 60 metres of cane to hold off his uncle Adam (11-34.41) and Home Hill's Chris Vass (11-48.92). Adam won the 100-metre marathon in a time of 18-46.41, ahead of third-placed Stuart (21-31.21).

In the last competition of the day, Scott, Adam, Stuart and Angus Gilbert won the Swindley Memorial Cut, Top and Load competition in 11-34.88. Local cane cutter, Roxanne Vass maintained her undefeated status at the Championships with a remarkable fourth consecutive Ladies Cup, cutting through three seven-metre drills in 5-37.03. She was followed by locals, Sue King (6-59.69) and her cousin, Nikki Vass (7-03.00).

A Festival Window Competition sponsored by the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Burdekin Shire Council was won by the Queensland Country Credit Union. Of the \$500 prize, \$400 has been donated by the QCCU to the Combined Burdekin Chaplaincy.



Mayor Lyn McLaughlin (left) and Chamber of Commerce President David Jackson presented the Festival window display prize to Manager of the Queensland Country Credit Union, Lyn Collins and staff member, Kristy Vass.



Part of the crowd watching the hand cane cutting championships.

Your Say . . .

Positive feedback on town service

Hi—I just read the *Home Hill News* and the very last line on the back page. Wanted to share positive feedback on a town service. I'm in Home Hill temporarily and wanted to comment favourably on the two people running the Home Hill Post Office. So kind and friendly to deal with when I set up a temporary P.O. Box number recently. Thanks for a great experience and friendly service.

Cheers
Karen

Get your coffee fix in Home Hill . .

COFFEE lovers in Home Hill have several options to gain their coffee fix in the town whenever they need it.

The **Crown Hotel** has coffee available from 10am on a daily basis, with the added incentive of a variety of cheese cakes and Gluten Free cakes to choose from.

The **Home Hill Newsagency** also provides their self-service "I Love Coffee" facility, at \$3 per cup. They are open from 5.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, from 5.30am to 1pm on Saturday and from 5.30am to 11am on Sunday. The **Burdekin Motor Inn's Coffee Lounge and Café** is open from 9am to 2pm, with home-made cheese cakes,

burgers, wraps, meals and lamingtons. They also offer Iced Coffee "made the old-fashioned way".

The **Home Hill Olympic Swimming Pool** is open in pool hours for local residents and visitors alike to meet their coffee desires from the pool entry area from 5.30am to 9am and 1pm to 6pm daily throughout winter.

Dee & Vee's Takeaway complements their menu with tasty coffee seven days a week. Meals and coffee are available Monday and Tuesday from 10am till 2pm; Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 7.30pm; Friday from 10am till 8pm; Saturday from 11am till 7.30pm and Sunday from 4pm till 7.30pm.

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

Burdekin Race Club—Horse racing at the Home Hill track on Saturday, July 6, 2019—Excellent afternoon in pleasant surroundings.

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 10am to 5pm each day from Wednesday to Friday and 10am to 2pm 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