

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community - No 70 August 2021

Bowen pipeline project moving forward

THE Bowen Pipeline Project, which will provide huge benefits for the Home Hill community through plans to pipe water from the Burdekin River to Bowen, has taken a major step forward after the Pipeline Company lodged their Environmental (EPBC) referral with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Bowen Pipeline Company Director, Sean Brown provided the advice to the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce recently, as well as indicating that "in April, 2021, we lodged an application for a National Water Grid Infrastructure grant to undertake a Detailed Business Case with the Queensland Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water".

The Chamber has been a strong supporter of the planned project, which will open up agricultural land between Home Hill and Bowen and also organised initial meetings in the town when the project was first announced to generate public support for the project to proceed. Mr Brown advised that the application would soon be before the Cabinet Budget Review Committee for consideration (mid-July 2021) "and we are hoping for a positive outcome to continue the progression of this exciting project".

"In September 2021, we plan to lodge our application for Designa-

tion as a Co-ordinated project with the Office of the Coordinator-General," Mr Brown said.

He advised that they had requested the State support the Project so that the Bowen Pipeline Company could continue to progress towards their target date for the commencement of construction in March/June, 2023, subject to the receipt of all required approvals.

The Bowen Pipeline Project (majority owned by local growers) is a 105km underground water pipeline commencing at Home Hill (Burdekin River) and moving south to Bowen, generally following the brownfield road reserves of the Bruce Highway.

The project will allow the creation of a reliable, secure water supply to Australia's largest winter vegetable growing area—currently growing some \$500 million of fruit and vegetables each year.

The Project will use world class Australian technology for the onsite extrusion of the HDPE pipe in 200 metre lengths, with water users utilising modern trickle and drip technology to eliminate water run-off. No flood irrigation will be permitted.

Mr Brown said that one of the major positives for the Project was the significant benefits to the Great Barrier Reef and the Commonwealth

Continued on Page 3—

Last-minute decision to cancel race meeting

MEMBERS of the Burdekin Race Club were left disappointed and angry before their planned six-event race program was due to start on Saturday, July 10, when the official stewards decided to abandon the meeting because of "the state of the Home Hill track".

The first that most race-goers were even aware that there was a problem was when they arrived at the track to see fully laden horse transports leaving the track and heading home, at a time when they should have been preparing their animals for their race during the afternoon.

The Burdekin Club had received excellent nominations for the meeting, with full fields accepting and one race having to be split into two to accommodate all the nominated horses.

The Stewards had inspected the track before the starting time and the club was told that after an inspection, three senior jockeys had indicated that they were happy to ride, despite the Stewards' concerns.

However, the Stewards continued to argue their concerns and talked to other jockeys until a deci-

sion was made to abandon the meeting.

Because it is the jockeys putting their lives on the line every time they take their horses onto the track to race, the club had no option but to abide by the Stewards' decision to abandon the race meeting.

The decision to stop the meeting came

just over a month after the very successful Burdekin Growers Race Day, after which the Burdekin Club was complimented on the quality of the track.

As a result, the decision by the stewards came as a complete surprise to President,

Continued on Page 3—



With the first race due to start, there was no movement on the Home Hill race course except for horse floats leaving.

OUR state capital is making big things of the decision to allocate the 2032 Olympic Games to the city with tens of thousands of dollars already spent on celebrating just the announcement of the decision. However, just what can we expect to get from the crumbs left over from the many billions of dollars that the powers-that-be in that part of the world believe is necessary to successfully undertake the sporting spectacular? Judging by the money wasted on fireworks and other celebratory necessities to go with the official announcement of Brisbane as the selected city (from no opposition world cities that we have heard of), there will be nothing spared to provide for their needs. That means that regional areas like ours will have to beg, steal or borrow to have anything done over the next 10 years on our needs. Our TAFE College seems to be an example, as it still seems to be moving backwards. Two elections ago, much publicity was given to the standard of the buildings at the Burdekin College and the lack of maintenance that was being undertaken. And since that time, there doesn't seem to have been much spent correcting the situation. Publicity for courses to be undertaken through northern TAFE does little to enlighten anyone as to the courses that could be taken by anyone in this community, if they had the urge to improve their education. We have also mentioned the need for a second bridge over the Burdekin River—which now seems to be even further away, with multi billions to be spent on “much-needed” tunnels under the Brisbane River. We wonder if our following generations will have any chance to see a new bridge crossing in their lifetime? While cities like Townsville may see a game of soccer or basketball, there would be little chance of regional areas gaining any benefit except for more grey nomads visiting to get away from the predicted thousands of visitors.

THE new Ninja course that is now

The finer points of Home Hill . .

A COUPLE of months ago, we applauded the council for the quality of the artwork applied to the frontage of three shops in Home Hill's Central Business District. At that stage, the artwork was applied to the front structure of the buildings, which added much needed colour to the centre of town. However, the council was not finished, as it has since filled in all of the front window spaces with historic photos and details of the story those photos tell, which has added to the streetscape in that area and provided a stopping point for visitors and locals alike to view. The council is to be congratulated for the effort, along with Mike Coleman of North Queensland Sign Writing, who carried out the work. The improvements come at a cost to ratepayers, while we are told the absentee landlords have paid for the work

to fill in the ceiling of the former café, which has finished off the project. The only disappointing aspect of the entire project is the insistence of the landlords to have the real estate signs placed over the top of the artwork and words, instead of in front of the structure of the shops where they would be seen just as easily. There were no signs on the shops before the work started, but apparently the council effort prompted the owners' desire for the signs to be in that specified posi-

tion. Any effort to remove the signs would only have placed them in danger of being damaged through removal of the two-sided tape holding them in place. As can be seen in our photo, one of the signs fell off which made it easier for pedestrians to make sense of the art work. Could we hope the other signs suffer the same fate? It would be great to see more landlords undertaking such work on other vacant premises in the main street, which would improve the outlook of the CBD to a large degree and maybe bring more people to town.

The frontage of the three Home Hill shops with the real estate signage over the top of the photo display



open for use in Watson's Green is developing some use by the younger members of the Burdekin community, with families seen taking picnic blankets down to the park to make themselves comfortable, while younger family members try out the new facilities. However, the course has been the subject of criticism for the claim that it is “for all ages”. We have been criticised by one writer because we “adopted the BSC propaganda that the Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course is suitable for all ages and skill levels”. However, we have not “adopted” anything—all we did was make the local public aware of the Council's claim about the Obstacle Course, which they are entitled to, like any organisation seeking publicity. The writer described the claim as “arrant nonsense”, as the course had a demographic for 10 to 20-year-olds and was “useless at achieving either fitness or for exercising”. The mayor and councillors, as well as chamber members, were invited to test out the council's claims and to “show us how to use it”. We doubt if that is likely to happen, but if the course does provide some-

thing for Home Hill's younger community, it is very welcome as it is something that we have been pushing for over a long period of time. Hopefully it is the start of the provision of more areas of interest for local youth in the town.

WE HAVE mentioned recently how most things our Council organises are held in Ayr and it has happened again. Sunday, August 1 was National Tree Day—Australia's largest tree-planting and nature care event—with Mayor Lyn McLaughlin saying it was a “great opportunity for the community, Lower Burdekin Landcare Association and Council to work together in making real improvements to our environment”. Those improvements involve planting 200 trees at one of Ayr's football grounds. How much better could it have been for all of the Burdekin Shire environment to have, say 120 trees planted in Ayr and 80 somewhere on the southern side of the river—even if it meant getting a local service club or organisation to oversee it on this side of the river?

- DAVID JACKSON

Pipeline project moving forward

Continued from Page 1—

Government's Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan, that aims to maintain and enhance the Reef's health and resilience, while allowing ecologically sustainable development.

"KPMG (2017) assessed the Project will create up to 3000 full time jobs, as well as 145 jobs during construction," Mr Brown said.

"The produce will be exported to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore (using the Free Trade Agreements) and local markets. The reliable water supply will enable year round crop production, diversification of vegetable and crops and increase annual production by upwards of \$400 million.

"The Project will solve a big local problem by supplying irrigation water and improving the use of up to 20,000 hectares of cleared Class A and B Good Quality Agricultural Land. Currently this land is solely used for cattle grazing."

As to where they were at, Mr Brown said they had -

- Secured the land required for the pipeline alignment and pump stations (conditional);
- Completed all current environmental and planning reporting; and
- Secured water allocations for the Project (conditional).

"We continue to have positive discussions with domestic and international processing and manufacturing companies to keep them informed on the progress of the Project," he advised.

RSL recognises Bill's 30 years

LONG-TIME Home Hill resident, Naval Shipwright and former Mayor, Bill Lewis has been recognised with the presentation of a certificate honouring 30 years of cumulative service as a member of the RSL Queensland.

Mr Lewis was presented with the certificate by Home Hill RSL Sub-branch officers, President Richard Kelly and Secretary Allan Petersen for his service which commenced 60 years ago from next year when he began as a naval



Bill Lewis displays his 30-year certificate with Home Hill RSL officers, President Richard Kelly and Secretary Allan Petersen.

Apprentice Shipwright at HMAS Ranate.

He subsequently joined the RSL Queensland while he was in the Navy.

Mr Lewis said he then joined the RSL in Home Hill where the club had built their own hall in 1958 and he returned to the town in 1974.

Disappointment as racing cancelled

Continued from Page 1—

Ricky Gudge, when he was told of the decision. At that time, owners and trainers had travelled for over eight and nine hours to bring their horses to Home Hill from as far away as Cairns and the Atherton Tableland and from Mackay and Rockhampton in the south, as well as from western areas.

Caterers had also made preparations for meeting the needs of race patrons and the Race Club's volunteers had worked tirelessly to ensure everything was in readiness for the race day.

The loss of the meeting was discussed at a Burdekin Race Club meeting the following week, when it was decided to approach Queensland Racing about the decision being made so late and to seek pre-race day in-

spection by the Stewards, so that they could pass on any concerns to be corrected rather than have all the preparations go to waste because of a cancellation as late as the July one was.

The Burdekin Club had made plans ahead of the July 10 meeting to aerate the track so that it was in readiness for the Derby Day meeting to be held in October.

President Ricky Gudge told the meeting that on the Sunday after the cancelled event, there were davits in the track.

He said he was disappointed to lose the meeting and stood firm on his belief that the track was right to race on. "One meeting we receive accolades and the next it is stopped," he commented. The club is hoping to receive a replacement meeting in the future.

CROWN HOTEL—The Middle Pub—Home Hill

Call in and see our friendly staff for your favourite drinks and Take-away Pizzas



Phone 4782 1007 to place your order— to be collected in the **Bottle Shop Drive through**



Home Hill Surgery
67/69 Eighth Ave
 Ph- 1800 008 308

WWW.WHITSUNDAYHEARING.COM.AU

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**

Direct from Dale
Dale LAST MP Member for **Burdekin**

- Shop 30 Centrepoin Arcade, Queen Street, Ayr QLD 4807
- (07) 4767 0500 **Free call** 1800 817 594 burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au
- dalelast.com.au DaleLastLNP @DaleLast1

School, radio station set to benefit

When the going gets tough, the tough get going, and that is certainly the case when it comes to the Home Hill State High School community and Sweet FM.

With the State Government offering little to no assistance to

the Home Hill High School when it comes to their grandstand, the school is now fundraising to have the old grandstand replaced. It was my pleasure to provide a donation to the school for the grandstand on behalf of the Burdekin Electorate.

Rest assured this community project has my support to ensure the Home Hill community and the school are able to once again enjoy the best side-line view of all the sporting action this town has to offer.

I know how proud this community is of its radio station and the hardworking volunteers behind the scenes. With new wheels



Dale Last (left) and Sweet FM chairman, Uli Liessmann with a design of the new donated marquee.

and plans to broadcast from a variety of local events, it will be fantastic to see Sweet FM at local events and under the shade of a new marquee which has been donated on behalf of the Burdekin Electorate. Congratulations Sweet FM—I look forward to seeing your broadcasts from the new set up.

Parliament Update

The Budget Estimates Hearings are due to take place at the end of July.

These Hearings provide an important opportunity to question Government Ministers on the recent budget and their department's work. We've already seen what the budget has to offer the Burdekin and rest assured there will be some tough questions for the Minister to answer.

Checking in together

With the new Check In QLD app now mandatory in more places, I have received calls from a number of concerned residents who do not have a suitable mobile device.

I would hope that businesses, especially larger businesses like supermarkets, take the necessary steps to ensure all people have access to the goods and services they need.



“REGULAR EYE EXAMINATIONS ARE AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN MAINTAINING GOOD VISION FOR LIFE!”

SHANNON DAVIES
 LOCAL OPTOMETRIST

50% OFF SECOND PAIR

*T&C's apply. 50% off lesser value pair. Valid until May 31 2021.

Eyecare Plus Ayr
 137 Queen St, QLD, 4807
 (07) 4783 1361
eyecareplus.com.au/ayr



Rock repair works refused while jetty repairs to start

With JEANETTE GARVEY

AFTER 18 months, Groper Creek residents are still waiting on bank stabilisation works to be completed at Mosquito Creek but this doesn't sound like it's going to happen any time soon. The Home Hill Boat Club has been informed that the Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust (BSRIT)'s application for proposed rock-revetment repair works has been refused by the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA). A rare and unprecedented rainfall event on January 27, 2020 resulted in a "backward flood" with floodwaters from the town and farmland drainage systems flowing from an inland direction, blowing out Mosquito Creek, taking chunks off the reserve's banks and leaving the township vulnerable. The Boat Club was informed that remediation works would be completed prior to the 2021 wet season and now after Local and State Government elections have both passed during this process, the paperwork banter is continuing and no works have progressed. In February, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Steven Miles advised SARA was waiting on further information regarding BSRIT's application which was lodged with Burdekin Shire Council in July 2020. "As Planning Minister, I have no involvement in the assessment undertaken or operation of SARA," was the Minister's response.

BURDEKIN Shire Council Parks and Gardens staff recently replaced the old broken-down horse in the Groper Creek playground. Withstanding numerous floods and rough treatment from jockeys over several decades, the old white horse play equipment has been replaced with a more toddler safe yet-to-be-named brown nag, who is getting a good workout. The park is popular with local families and groups who visit on weekends and it is hoped further upgrades will occur.



HOME HILL Boat Club memberships are now due (as of the new financial year, July 1) and the \$10 fee is only payable via the Groper Creek Caravan Park kiosk. The Home Hill Boat Club was incorporated 78 years ago on June 22, 1944, when a group of locals formed to initiate improvements like the jetty, boat ramps, electricity, telephone, water supply, channel dredging and maintenance. For membership applications and renewal enquires, Phone 4782 0186.

WINTER has not deterred decent size barramundi from also making their way into boats. Fish whisperer, John "Cambo" Campbell from Groper Creek-based Burdekin Barra Lodge charters said his client, Brandon had a smile from ear to ear when he landed this solid 102cm barra in "an undisclosed spot" in the river (below). After a trophy photo, the fish was released to fight another day.



Jetty Jottings

MARITIME Safety Queensland has advised repairs to the Groper Creek Jetty will occur this month. After several safety concerns were raised, General Manager Angus Mitchell has advised MSQ has organised the replacement of the jetty's missing pile caps (which have been missing since Cyclone Yasi). Additional works to secure the pile sleeves will also be undertaken at the same time.

STOKED is how Groper Creek regular visitors, Kevin and Lorraine Stokes (pictured below) felt to



land some impressive flathead in the creek recently. Lorraine thought she was doing well landing the first two fish, which measured 55cm and 42cm . . .until husband Kevi outdid her hooking up on a beautiful 71cm monster. The pair reckon it's always a joint effort when they head out on the water with no competition between them happening, however, they did both seem to know who was leading the trip tally – Lorraine!





BURDEKIN BRASS BAND PRESENTS

BURDEKIN BRASS LIVE

PERFORMANCES BY:

- COMBINED BURDEKIN SCHOOL BANDS
- THURINGOWA BRASS BAND
- BURDEKIN BRASS BAND

ENTRANCE FEE
 ADULT - \$15
 CONCESSION/STUDENT - \$12
 GROUP OF 4 OR MORE - \$12 EACH
 CHILDREN UNDER 5 - FREE

AUGUST 14TH, 2021
7:30PM - 9:30PM

BURDEKIN THEATRE
 161 QUEEN ST, AYR QLD 4807

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA BURDEKIN THEATRE BOX OFFICE

Preparations for Festival Ephemera

THE Home Hill Harvest Festival will once again feature the Canefields Ephemera as one of its major events, with at least eight entries received when extended nominations closed on July 23, with the possibility of more, once Festival officers have the opportunity to put them all together. Now in its fourth year, the much anticipated display, which is described as Home Hill's sculpture festival, will add another event to the Home Hill Harvest Festival's program, with prize money of \$5000 on offer and sponsorship from the Harvest Festival, Brennan's Tyrepower, Complete Health and the Burdekin Shire Council. The Ephemera artwork is meant to be short-lived and is not meant to be

retained or preserved as it runs along similar lines to the very popular Strand Ephemera in Townsville. Exhibition co-ordinator, John Woods said Ephemera entries had closed at the extended closing date of July 23. At that stage, he said entries he had were down with eight having been received himself. However, there may have been some that had not been passed on to him. "The artists will be advised once I am able to meet with the selection panel," he commented. The Judges award will be announced at the Harvest Festival launch in Lloyd Mann Gardens on September 11, 2021, which is the opening day of the festival, with entries having to be installed in the week before.

Time runs out for apprentices

TIME has run out for anyone intending to apply for one of the 38 new apprenticeships being offered with Wilmar Sugar Australia. Applications for Wilmar's 2022 apprenticeship intake closed on Sunday, August 1, with electrical, fitting and turning, diesel fitting and fabricating apprenticeships on offer across Wilmar's eight sugar mills and bioethanol distillery. The company was recruiting for seven apprenticeship positions in the Herbert region, 20 in the Burdekin, five in Proserpine and six in Sarina.

Burdekin Region Mills

Weekly Production Figures

Weeks 6 and 7—ending July 24, 2021

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	144,378	977,865
Pioneer	90,331	526,873
Kalamia	66,993	477,703
Inkerman	50,559	386,546
Burdekin	352,261	2,368,987
CCS		
Invicta	14.62	13.92
Pioneer	14.75	13.98
Kalamia	14.30	13.58
Inkerman	13.62	13.32
Burdekin	14.45	13.77

Comments —

THROUGHPUT in week six was good overall, with more than 360,000 tonnes put through the rollers. This brings the season-to-date total to just over 2M tonnes – or 25 per cent – of the estimated Burdekin crop. The weekly result was above budget, despite Inkerman Mill's extended stop to repair leaking boiler tubes and Invicta Mill's stop to carry out repairs to the bagasse system. Average weekly CCS was 14.28. This was again well above budget, thanks to the dry cool conditions. The highest CCS sample was 17.2 from a rake of Q240 plant cane in the Inkerman Mill area.

THROUGHPUT in week seven was down, with just over 350,000 tonnes of cane processed. The below-budget result was mainly due to superheater tube failures in Inkerman Mill's No.1 boiler, which resulted in about 50 hours of lost time. The stops were caused by chemical carry-over from the boiler feedwater into the steam circuit. All Inkerman burnt cane was processed before the factory was shut down on Saturday night, to enable work teams to carry out detailed investigations and corrective actions. Average weekly CCS was 14.45. This was again well above budget thanks to the dry cool conditions. The highest CCS sample was 17.8 from a rake of Q240 plant cane in the Invicta Mill area.

John Tait,

Cane Supply Manager, Burdekin Region

Jimmy's Handyman & Fencing Service

- Painting
- Tiling
- Fencing
- Lawn & Garden Service
- Repairs & Maintenance

ABN: 67 053 764 135

Quality Work.....
Affordable Prices....



Free Quotes Ph: 0439 676 212

LISSMANN & SONS

HOME HILL
PHONE 4782 1612

- PLUMBING & GASFITTING
- CEMENT • PAINT
- GARDENING SUPPLIES • TIMBER

LP GAS

Commercial Gases
Supplied & Delivered

1 Fourth Street

Email: liessmann@bigpond.com

50 Years in Business!

Uli Liessmann comments . .

Businessman, Uli Liessmann reports on local issues of interest in the Home Hill district



A FEW weeks ago, Dr A. Clarke, a lecturer with the Queensland University got in touch with me seeking information on our large sculptures here in Home Hill. She is publishing a book around Easter 2022, which is aimed at encouraging people to visit rural (Home Hill) and regional areas within Australia. The book will be stocked at all normal bookstores, as well as Kmart, Big W, etc. The book will contain light-hearted but informative information about Australia's many 'Big Things', from the well-known Big Pineapple and Big Banana, to the lesser-known gems that dot our wide and varied landscape—and she wants to include Home Hill in this publication. I'm told that the book can be used as a travel guide or as a fun coffee-table book for people who want to explore Australia's over-sized landmarks from the comfort of their sofa. Big Things have been dismissed as 'kitsch' and for a time were regarded as part of Australia's 'cultural cringe'. This book will challenge this conception and reflections of Australia's local and regional identities.

THE new welcome signs on the southern and northern sides of the shire look just great but not finished. I hope the backside of these signs will be finished off in some way, even if they



are only painted the same colour or have another sign thanking visitors and to drive safely or something along those lines. It just does not look finished.

I READ with interest on the progress of the wooden cane cutter sculpture to be mounted somewhere in the Shire. Maybe the sculpture could be placed inside the Diorama, where it will be under a cover and out of the weather—plus it will be a focus point at the Diorama.

ON JUNE 30, 2021, the Federal Government said in a flyer that building for our future, the Burdekin Shire Council will receive \$1,240,522. I just hope a small percentage will end up on the southern side of the river.

MY PREDICTION on the increase of the general rate was wrong. I thought the rates would have to be at least 4 per cent or around that mark. It turned out to be 2.5 per cent—good, but remember water went up substantially. An increase in waste removal and potable water is actually an increase in the rates. In the budget, roads/streets received a \$6.9 million share of the Burdekin 2021/22 Budget, which will ensure safer roads across the region. Also, a bit of line marking on country roads would not go astray—in fact it might save a life. SAW A mention of road works on the north side, but the release was a bit shy of any mention of roads on the southern side and no mention about any streets in Home Hill. However, it is an internal road in Plantation Park—more important than the streets in Home Hill?

These are my views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 www.uliliessmann.com.au - ULI LIESSMANN



Collecting the window winnings

SINCE the winners of the Hot Days Sweet Nights window competition were revealed in the last *Home Hill News*, Mayor Lyn McLaughlin has visited the prize winners to present them with their winnings.



Mayor Lyn McLaughlin presented Uli Liessmann with his business's \$350 for winning the Home Hill section of the window competition.



The Home Hill Choral Society entered the competition for the first time since moving into their new home at 'The Vault' in Eighth Avenue. Mayor Lyn McLaughlin presented the \$150 second prize to president Robert Antoniazzi.

Brass Bands take to the stage

THE Burdekin Brass Band is to take to the stage of the Burdekin Theatre in August for a performance entitled "Burdekin Brass Live", which intends to raise the profile of the Band, as well as encouraging more people to join the Home Hill-based Band.

The launch of an annual Brass Music Concert intends to raise appreciation, awareness, image and promotion of brass music locally and in the region, as well as encouraging youth from local schools and private music programs to join the Concert Performance and the Band.

The Burdekin Brass Band has been able to plan the concert, which is to be held at the Bur-

dekin Theatre on Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, through generous support received through funding applications made to the Burdekin Shire Council and Pacific Hydro.

Those funding applications resulted in grants of \$1500 from the Council and \$3960 from Pacific Hydro.

On top of that, the Council provides an annual grant of \$2500 in recognition of the Band's Free Public Performances during the year.

The program will also feature performances by the Combined Burdekin Schools Bands and the Thuringowa Brass Band.

Tickets are available at the Burdekin Theatre Box Office.

THERE is a new grant available that aims to strengthen Australia's supply chain capabilities, and I encourage manufacturing businesses in the Burdekin to consider applying for these funds to improve Australia's access to critical products in times of crisis. Manufacturers can apply now under the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative – a key part of the Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy. Matched grants of between \$50,000 and \$2 million are on offer for businesses that can help address supply chain vulnerabilities across medicines and agricultural production chemicals – which were identified as sectors of focus. COVID-19 has taught us that we need to be able to



have access to critical products in times of crisis. To find out more or apply for a grant under the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative visit business.gov.au/scri. **Identifying export opportunities for our region** THERE is some great research being undertaken that will help our region reach new export markets. I met with the Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3), the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) and other industry representatives recently to learn a bit more about it. The research will identify key Mackay Isaac Whitsunday export agricultural products and match

those to complementary export markets. Building on our capabilities in the ag space is a great step forward and I encourage farmers to engage in this process with GW3. Data gathered from this research will be passed on to the region's growers to help them pursue new markets going forward.



Joining me to discuss the upcoming research into future export opportunities is Mackay Airport's Adrian Miles, GW3 CEO Kylie Porter, CRCNA's Ian Biggs and Anne Stunzer, and CQUniversity's Pierre Viljoen.

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

170 Arts on the Avenue—The Burdekin Artisan Community invites you to inspect their display of various arts and craft forms at the Ashworths Rock Shop complex from 9.30am to 1pm Tuesdays, 10am to 5pm each day from Wednesday to Friday and 10am to 1pm Saturday.

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.

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;

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).

Burdekin Toastmasters meet on the first and third Mondays of each month. Phone 0438 620 180 or 0409 615 559 for details.

Card making, scrapbooking, album making and assorted jewellery classes at Lynn and Mike's Craft Studio, Home Hill. Phone 0418 783 799 for details of how to participate.

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;

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 excellent **Home Hill Tennis complex** in the centre of the Home Hill Race Track; or at the **Home Hill Community Sports Club Inc.** (4782 1185) which offers roll-up bowls Thursdays and Sundays at 12.30pm with an open bar.

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;

Home Hill Swimming Pool (Eleventh Avenue) is open throughout the summer months—5.30am to 7pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 5.30am to 6pm Wednesday; 10am to 6pm Sunday.

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.

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.

Old Time Dancing at the St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Tenth Avenue, Home Hill on the first Saturday night of each month;

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

Sing Along with the Home Hill Choral Society – every Wednesday evening at the "The Vault" - the Choral Society Hall in Eighth Avenue—from 7pm to 8.30pm. Everyone is 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.

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