

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community - No 74 December 2021

Don't forget to light up HOME HILL – and add some Tinsel

THE Christmas season is with us and that means the people of Home Hill light up their residences for the annual "Residential Christmas Lights Competition".

Last year, the homes in Fourteenth Avenue were outstanding with their combined effort and this year, it would be good to see other areas of the town challenging the residents of Fourteenth Avenue for supremacy. We urge neighbours to talk about how they can make

their area of the town stand out.

Trophies will be presented for the best individual Home and for the Neighbourhood Award for the best group of neighbouring homes.

And as we mentioned last month, let's turn Home Hill into "Tinsel Town" by adding some tinsel to every home.

If you don't have any tinsel, see Erin Brennan at Brennan's Tyrepower or at the Choral Society's "The Vault" to play your part.

'Lock-up' warning as vehicles stolen and burnt out

A WARNING to the Home Hill community to ensure they lock up their properties and keep their keys in safe, secure places after the criminal activity that is plaguing Townsville with the theft and burning of vehicles of all shapes and sizes, extended to this community through October and November.

The first most people in Home Hill knew of the criminal activity was when a burnt out Polaris four-wheeler quad bike (with an empty fuel can beside it) was left in full view of people travelling to and from the Home Hill State Primary School on November 11.

It is understood Fire and Emergency Services had been called out early that morning to extinguish the blaze off the side of Fourteenth Avenue.

The Home Hill News contacted a representative of the vehicle owners, who advised that the four wheeler was one of three vehicles stolen from a locked, fully

enclosed shed on a farm near Groper Creek on October 17, along with a KTM motor bike and a Polaris Ranger Side by Side vehicle.

Those other two vehicles were found hidden in bush in a public area about two weeks after they were stolen.

A report was also received that another motor bike had been stolen and left burnt out. The owners of that bike made their feelings known about the theft by leaving the burnt-out remains in public view with their comments on a sign on top of it.

The Home Hill News was also informed that a much loved early-model car had also been stolen from a local property and had been left burnt out off the side of First Street in the vicinity of the Home Hill High School.

Local residents are urged to take extra care with their vehicles and ensure everything is locked away from the perpetrators of these alleged criminal activities.



The four-wheeler quad bike that was burnt out near the Home Hill Primary School



The owner of this burnt out motor bike made it clear what he thought of the alleged perpetrators.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

to all readers of THE HOME HILL NEWS

From the President and Members of the
Home Hill Chamber of Commerce



The finer points of Home Hill . .

WHILE businesses in the Home Hill community may be finding it tough to encourage shoppers to walk in their doors and see what is being offered in this part of the Burdekin against the efforts of all levels of government, statutory organisations and larger business operations offering incentives to shop in Ayr, it seems that other organisations on the Home Hill side of the river are moving to bigger and better things through increasing years of productive activities.

That has been evident over the past two weeks as firstly, the Home Hill Choral Society two weeks ago and the Home Hill Boat Club the following week recognised their many years of existence—the Choral Society with 90 years and expanding and the Home Hill Boat Club recognising a centenary of perseverance against flooding and the like to provide for the needs of numerous locals and interstate visitors alike with their constantly improving facilities.

The Burdekin Netball Association—based in Home Hill—has already celebrated 50 years plus of successful competitive sport at their excellent facilities and in the future, we are aware of plans by the Home Hill Harvest Festival to recognise 60 years of entertainment for the community of the Burdekin and beyond.

The Harvest Festival only came about after it was initially part of the Water Festival with a procession starting in Home Hill and moving on to further celebrations in Ayr—until it was decided that the festivities should only be held on the Ayr side of the river—SOUND FAMILIAR compared to current standards??

The one standout comment from our many visitors is the number of empty shops in the town—is it more conspicuous in our town than others where the empty business premises seem to be as high in number as in Home Hill? Do those other towns have the same authorities working against the town as we do here, where services on both sides of the river are cut in favour of just one—

IN THE November edition of *The Home Hill News*, we noted the efforts of the Burdekin Shire Council in providing a temporary crossover over the gutter in front of Dr Tata's Home Hill Surgery to provide assistance to the many elderly residents who access the popular medical practice.

That crossing has now been replaced by the more "permanent" fixture (pictured below) which will make it easier for all ages, no matter how incapacitated they are to cross over the deep gutters.

The Council effort will be welcomed by those who are able to park close enough to it—but we hope it does not mean that the replacement of all the gutters along the length of the

town's central business district is not now put back in the budget order of priority.

The new crossing allows easier access for those who can park close enough, but for those who are more than two cars away each way, or even across the road or around the corner, the problems with access and opening doors of vehicles does not go away.

We again urge representatives of all levels of government to at least visit the site and take note of the difficulties all ages (not just

the elderly and infirm) have in opening and shutting doors of their motor vehicles and climbing up the steep gutters to access the footpaths.

That would mean inviting party leaders to extend their "Burdekin": visits further than the Ayr main street to inspect the problem areas and provide similar finance to what was found to correct similar problems in the Ayr CBD.



normally just on the Ayr side to the detriment of local customers and Home Hill as a whole, as they are forced to travel to access their needs? Many people not involved in the agricultural industry would not have been aware of the loss one year ago of the former South Burdekin

Water Board offices (now part of Lower Burdekin Water) until they saw the sign on the

former office (pictured), which was prominent at the recent Festival Mardi Gras. Another lost organisation in Home Hill and more people forced to go to Ayr to access that service.

The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce continues to fight on against these sorts of decisions and we can only encourage as many local residents as possible to continue to support Home Hill businesses—despite the efforts of others.

ONE area where local businesses can help themselves is to join the Chamber and take part in the decision making, which is currently being covered by a small number of business representatives who are keen to see the town progress. Recently, the bi-monthly networking

meeting was hosted by Ross Tapiolas at his My Pets store—and those who were there (a very small attendance) were more than surprised by the professional service that Ross and his wife, Tracey and their staff offer in the various sections of the business. It is not hard to wonder just what there is for Pet Stores to offer to keep their businesses alive—but Ross's tour gave a good indication of just what is available to local residents that they do not have to go out of town for. That is one business that deserves support—especially with so many pets in homes throughout the district. If you haven't been there, take the time to pay them a visit!

THIS is the last edition of *The Home Hill News* for 2021 and with no publication until February, 2022, we extend our thanks and best wishes to all our readers and advertisers for the support we have received as we endeavour—with the Chamber of Commerce—to look after the Home Hill business community and the town of Home Hill as a whole. While the support from the public continues as strongly as it has been—and with the generous sponsorship of Wilmar Sugar with the printing of the newsletter, *The Home Hill News* will continue to be published into the future.

- DAVID JACKSON

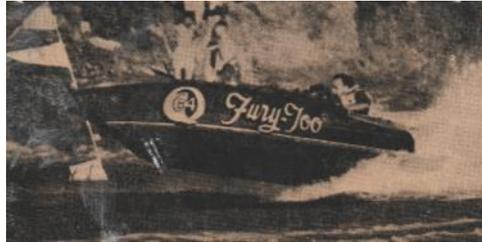
ALL LBW CUSTOMERS:
LOWER BURDEKIN WATER'S
ADMINISTRATION TEAM WILL BE
OPERATING OUT OF THE AYR OFFICE
FROM THE 1ST OF NOVEMBER 2020.
OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL WILL
CONTINUE TO UTILISE THE HOME
HILL OFFICE/DEPOT.

Centenary of memories recalled as Groper Creek celebrates

MANY memories of past years at Groper Creek were recalled, as a large crowd of present and past members of the Home Hill Boat Club, residents of the Creek huts and the wider Burdekin community and people who have made use of the Burdekin Delta area for a long period of time, as well as some of the thousands of visitors who frequent the area annually, joined in a weekend of partying in November to recognise 100 years of the development of the area. More details of the celebrations appear in "Jetty Jottings" on

page 5 of this edition of The Home Hill News.

BELOW—Home Hill cane-farming brothers, Kenneth and Morris Stockdale were also prominent as drivers of *Fury Too* in the speedboat racing that took place in Groper Creek in the 1950's.



Participating in the Groper Creek celebrations were members of the current generation of the Stockdale Clan, who have long been associated with Groper Creek, including (from left) Robert Stockdale (son of the late Kenneth Stockdale) and Joy McCarron and Russell and Philip Stockdale, some of the next generation of Morris Stockdale's family).



The organising committee for the Groper Creek Centenary celebrations, which included (from left) Sylvia Chapman and Commodore Ross Chapman with Groper Creek manager, Jeanette Garvey and Wendy Coplick, had good reason to be celebrating as their plans came to fruition.

Ninety years of choral entertainment

THE Home Hill Choral Society highlighted the quality of their entertainment over the 90 years of their existence, as they hosted a night for invited guests, followed by two performances recalling many of the outstanding acts from shows the members had presented over that period of time. The Society hosted their past members, supporters and sponsors from past years on the first night, recalling some of their past performances and performing some parts of past shows, to the delight of those present.

President Robert Antoniazzi and Past President Erin Brennan had the honour of cutting the celebratory cake, which was then shared with those present over all three nights.

The following two shows were fully booked as those present enjoyed choral performances by the entire cast of members, as well as more recollections from past shows over their 90-year history. The Society is now looking forward to its centenary in 10 years time.



Past president Erin Brennan and current leader, Robert Antoniazzi cut one of the two cakes at the Choral Society's 90th Birthday celebrations.

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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**

Anglican Christmas services

FOLLOWING the appointment of a new Anglican Minister in the Burdekin in a shared role between the St Helen's, Home Hill and All Saints, Ayr Parishes, a program of Christmas Services to be conducted over the 2021 Christmas period has been released for the benefit of church parishioners. The two Churches will be working closely together for the services under the direction of newly-appointed Minister, Rev. Karen Allen.

Starting on Christmas Eve, December 24, the Services will start at All Saints, Ayr with –
 Christmas Eve at 5pm;
 Children's Service starting with a sausage sizzle at 5pm;
 Holy Communion Service starts at 5.30pm;
 Christmas Eve Carols start at 11pm;
 Holy Communion at 11.30pm.

St Helen's, Home Hill –
 Christmas Eve, Holy Communion Service at 7.30pm.
 Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day;
 All Saints, Ayr - Holy Communion Service at 8.30am;

St Helen's, Home Hill - Holy Communion at 10am.
 Sunday, December 26 -
 St Helen's, Home Hill - Combined Ayr and Home Hill Communion Service at St Helen's, starting at 9am.
 Anglican Church wardens have reminded parishioners that there is every chance available to attend a Church Service over the Christmas period in either Ayr or Home Hill.
 "Since the advent of COVID, we have seen a drop-off in regular attendance at Church Services," they commented. "We look forward to the Parishioners' attendance at either Church over the Christmas period. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the Christmas Spirit."

Vocal cancer support



LOCAL vocal group, Kindred Spirits has been recognised by the Cancer Council Queensland (CCQ) for their October performances, which resulted in a substantial donation being sent to the CCQ. The Group was thrilled with the success of their recent concerts, as a large crowd enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment and generously supported the cent sale. As a result, the group were able to donate \$2630 to the Cancer Council Queensland. Kindred Spirits leader, Ruth Stockdale (pictured) received a "Thank You" Certificate from the CCQ recognising their fund raising efforts.



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Local Teen loses pony tails to help find a Cancer Cure

A LOCAL teenager has shaved off her long pony tails as part of the World's Greatest Shave



Lucy before the shave

fundraising drive, with her six-year-old long locks also adding to the charity effort. Lucy Creek, the daughter of Richard Creek and Saskia Vollema-Creek of Home Hill, hoped to raise over \$2000 through the shave, which took place on Monday, November 29 at the Ayr High School, where she is a student.

Lucy was inspired by a buddy to undertake the World's Greatest Shave, as well as family members who have

also suffered from cancer. Funds raised during the World's Greatest Shave will support the work of the Leukaemia Foundation, which assists families with the care needed during the treatment of blood cancers. The Ayr High School have raised over \$10,000 this year with about 11 male students as well as the principal shaving their heads over the course of the year. Another year 12 student, Paige Fraser and teacher, Jessamy Nicolaides joined Lucy in shaving

their hair on the same day. However, Lucy was the one who instigated the entire Shave for a Cure as a fundraiser for the School's Interact Club this year. Her parents, Richard and Saskia expressed their pride in their daughter's efforts. "We are so proud of her," they commented. Hairdresser, Wilmee Stockdale cut Lucy's hair, which resulted in a total raised of approximately \$2400.



Lucy after the Shave with her pony tails

Photos by Saskia Vollema-Creek

Fireworks add to Christmas Carols

A FIREWORKS spectacular is set to wow audiences at the Burdekin Shire Council's 2021 Community Christmas Carols to be held at the Senior Soccer Fields on Beach Road, Ayr from 5.30pm on Sunday, December 12.

Free tickets are now available for the fireworks spectacular, along with the return of a mega prize draw, with Mayor Lyn McLaughlin saying the 2021 Community Christmas Carols were set to be the biggest in the event's history – although the

free tickets have to be pre-booked. "The 2021 Community Christmas Carols will not only feature all of your favourite festive songs, stallholders and a visit from Santa, but will conclude with the fireworks spectacular in a first for the event," Cr McLaughlin said. "While attending the event is free, I want to encourage everyone to pre-book a ticket to ensure all COVID-19 guidelines are met. "Last year's mega prize draw was extremely well supported, so we look forward to its return."

Your chance to look back to the 50's and 60's

ARE you one of the many residents of the Burdekin community who will be "turning 70 or thereabouts" in 2021? – If you are, then you have been invited to attend a function that has been organised at the Burdekin Motor Inn in Home Hill on December 4, commencing at 10am and finishing "in the afternoon".

Three local residents – Tom Castorina, Dianne Schultz and Don Bergin – have organised the function for those "Looking Back, Looking Forward, from 1951 Era" with "Lunch and dessert with tea and coffee to be served and entertainment provided with music trivia, a guessing competition and lots of fun and memories shared".

"The idea is to reminisce about the past, reflect on what's changed over the last five to six decades and imagine what the future may hold for us all," the organising committee said. They pointed out that the function is NOT limited to only those born in 1951, nor is it limited to only those born in the Burdekin or who went to school in the Burdekin. "If you were born in the era around 1951, you are welcome to attend," they advised.

They need the following from people who would like to attend - 1. A RSVP to Tom Castorina (0417 602 093), Don Bergin (0447 010 569) or Dianne Schultz (roddischultz@bigpond.com) as numbers are needed for catering purposes. Any special dietary needs should also be advised— 2. The names of two of your favourite songs from the 1960's and 1970's; 3. Any ideas for activities etc. that could be included in the program.

Night of Cheer cancelled

THE COVID rules necessary for the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce to host their Night of Christmas Cheer has resulted in the event being cancelled for the second year in succession.

While the return of the event on December 19 was announced in the November edition of *The Home Hill News*, the Chamber Executive considered different venues for the event in place of the Home Hill Comfort Stop, because of the need to spread the spectators out while also being able to keep a track of names and addresses of all attendees. However, it was found that the Chamber did not have enough members to meet all the rules and regulations to host the event this year. It is hoped the Night of Christmas Cheer will be able to return in December, 2022.

School holidays set for discovery with reading

A RANGE of challenges have been set for Home Hill children to discover on shop windows and footpaths, as part of interactive challenges aimed at inspiring children to continue their love of reading over the Christmas break. Developed by the State Library of Queensland, Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the Summer Reading Club was a state-wide program developed to prevent the 'summer reading slide', which occurs when children don't read over longer school holiday breaks

and return to school the following year at a lower reading level than when they left.

The challenges involve seven very special koala stickers in the windows of Home Hill shops, starting at the Home Hill Newsagency and continuing along the footpath through Home Hill's central business district - and each with a different challenge.

Children are encouraged to complete all challenges, including different activities and fill out a challenge sheet to go in the draw

to win a special Summer Reading Club book pack, which will be drawn early in 2022.

The Home Hill's stickers each encourage boys and girls to utilise a different online Library resource and share what they've learnt with their family and friends.

Cr McLaughlin commended the Burdekin Library staff for being incredibly innovative in 2021 and developing a set of challenges, which will not only encourage Burdekin boys and girls to read, but encourage parents to support local

businesses and shop here over the Christmas break, as they make their way through the shopping districts to complete each challenge.

The Burdekin Library's Summer Reading Club Discovery Walks were launched on December 1 2021 and will continue until early 2022.

For more information or to pick up a challenge sheet, collect one from the Home Hill Newsagency at the start of the Home Hill Discovery Walk.

Community recognition for Remembrance Day

WORKS being carried out to the frontage of the Burdekin Memorial Hall did not stop the Home Hill community from recognising the end of World War I on Remembrance Day 2021.

The annual ceremony was moved inside the smaller hall of the complex, where the large crowd of ex-servicemen and women, RSL members, Home Hill High School students and members of the public were present to remember those who served the country in the Great War and other conflicts around the world since that time.

The service, which was led by Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly, included addresses by Mr Kelly, Cr Max Musumeci and Padre Andrew Ballin, before a large number of wreaths were laid at the temporary cenotaph by representatives of a number of organisations as well as the High School students.

Burdekin Brass Band bugler, Raymond Petersen sounded the Last Post and Reveille and the National Anthem, while Piper Roy Page played The Lament to end the ceremony.

The service was also backed by the Home Hill business community with the Home Hill Bakery providing morning tea for participants.



Home Hill High School students (from left) Jasmine Styles, Joshua Machin and Travis Crichton participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at Home Hill's Remembrance Day ceremony, watched by Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch president, Richard Kelly and Bugler Raymond Petersen.

Home Hill publication now available through Burdekin Library

COPIES of *The Home Hill News* right from the first issue over five years ago are now available through the Burdekin Library's catalogue.

Following a request from the Library Services Manager for copies of past issues back to the first edition published in April, 2015, the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce was able to provide all

issues (no publication has taken place in January of each year and one issue was not printed in August, 2018).

The local newsletter was started because of the lack of Home Hill News appearing in other media throughout the Burdekin district and for a short time, it was one of the few regional news publications available throughout the

north, when many local papers were closed down at the same time.

Anyone wishing to access the editions of *The Home Hill News* can access it from the link <https://burdekin.libero.com.au/by-> Searching for "Home Hill News" and then select the title (with the PDF image) from the Search Results table.

Click on the green "Attachments" button on the Catalogue Display page and then all issues will be available to select and view. Newly published editions of *The Home Hill News* are available at the beginning of each month (except January) at the Home Hill Newsagency and at the business premises of current members of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce.

Sell-out crowd for Creek's centenary celebrations



Jetty Jottings

With JEANETTE GARVEY

A SELL-OUT crowd of 150 gathered under the stars on a perfect full moon-lit night on Saturday, November 20 to celebrate the Centenary of Groper Creek.

Home Hill Boat Club Commodore, Ross Chapman introduced Mayor Lyn McLaughlin, who performed the official welcome before guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet feast prepared by Howies Catering. Sweet FM's Charlie Scuderi kept proceedings running smoothly with guests entertained by the talented Barra-mundi Brothers. Cr McLaughlin spoke of Groper Creek's achievements over the past 100 years and made a special announcement that a new playground is planned for 2022. Lou Jezard's Canefields Ephemera artwork, "Big Bucks, Barra Bait and Beer", proudly hung high from a Coolabah tree, after he had earlier delivered it to Manager Dan Garvey (both pictured). Comprising a giant mudcrab and prawn made from



palm fronds, the artwork tells the story of a Burdekin Dream, setting out from Scottie's in Groper Creek . . . It also prompted many to tell their fishing stories throughout the night. Les Oats recalled the time when Jack Hinkson almost landed a giant Groper; and how no fish flesh was ever wasted as it was dispersed amongst the Italian cancutters, who relished every morsel. Then it was up to the Stockdale family (backed up by others) to recall the many changes to the creek via floods; swimming to

the other side without fear of crocodiles; the well-supported speedboat races and the many good times spent and friendships made at The Creek. Suffice to say . . . a good time was had by all.

AN UPDATE on the 5m crocodile, which was recently removed from Groper Creek—Department of Environment rangers have advised that the Big Fella is now at Melaleuca Crocodile Farm near Mareeba, where he is happily penned with two females.

JAY-NEE Shand's poem, which tells the tale of the Home Hill Boat Club's inaugural Fisherman's Ball on September 3, 1965, in support of their Harvest Festival Queen, Lyn Ramsden was read out during the celebrations—

Dear Thea,

I write on behalf of the Boat Club,
 Who conducted the Fishermen's Ball,
 For the very first time in this district,
 And its success I now wish to recall.
 We began with some trepidation,
 To launch this novel event,
 Which introduced our Queen to the public,
 For Lyn we were proud to present.
 Sea horses and fish in all colours,
 With boats and fishermen's nets,
 Made the atmosphere seem very festive,
 For our Queen and her loyal subjects.
 The official party arrived at 10.30,
 As a roll of drums thundered out in the hall,
 King Neptune and two bearded attendants
 Wheeled their mermaid into the Ball.
 A mock court was then held impromptu,
 And six were found guilty and fined,
 Hilarious were the proceedings,
 As accusations were made of all kinds.
 The best fishing dress was judged,
 And prizes awarded to three,
 One for the most original.
 The others, a best "he" and "she".
 And now that the ball is all over,
 Our efforts have received lots of praise,
 We thank the good folk who rallied
 And helped us in so many ways.

JAY-NEE

WHILE most Schoolies headed off to various parties to let their hair down to commemorate the end of their school days, it was pleasing to see four mates enjoying themselves at Groper Creek. After previously camping with his family, Mackay high school graduate, Owen Elmore (left, at right) organised the end-of-school fishing trip with his buddies, Zhane Baxter (Sunshine Coast), Layth McGee (Mackay) and Seth Sologinkin (Mackay). The boys all have jobs lined up in the coming weeks, but plan to return annually for a Boys weekend.




BEST FISHES
for a happy and safe festive season
from Groper Creek
to all Home Hill News readers


Artisans offer gift ideas

MARKET sales from the boot of a motor vehicle or the tray of a utility will return again to Home Hill on Saturday, December 11 as the Burdekin Artisans Community Association Inc. (BACA) again hosts its Car Boot/Ute Sale in the area of land at the front of Ashworth's Rock Shop in Seventh Avenue.

After appearing successfully for the first time in October, the markets grew at the second attempt in November, prompting BACA to again invite the Burdekin community to host a site – or attend the event on December 11, 2021 to inspect the bargains on offer during the morning and select a pos-

sible unique Christmas gift. Sellers set up under the shady trees at the markets have been offering a variety of interesting items for sale, including books, plants, homewares, Guinea Pigs, clothing, etc.

Anyone wishing to participate in the markets at a cost of \$10 per site should phone 0436 324 080 to book their place in the event to be held from 8am to 11am on Saturday, December 11.

Visit Ashworth's Rock Shop on December 18 and grab a bargain, while also supporting the work of the Burdekin Artisans Community Association.



Art celebrations finalised

THE Burdekin Art Society finalised their 50-year celebrations with the cutting of a celebratory cake during their Art Display held in the offices of Lower Burdekin Water during the Harvest Festival celebrations. Society president Luisa Delle Baite (left) and Helen Bosworth, a daughter of a founding member of the Society, Cecilia Spottiswood, were given the honour of cutting the cake, which came at the end of a very successful year for local artists. The festival display was also successful, with many from the crowd taking the time to inspect the large number of paintings on display and make their selection of a People's Choice Award.

That honour went to a painting, entitled "Tulips", entered by Home Hill artist, Desley Jackson.

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Weeks 25—ending November 27, 2021

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	0	3,050,914
Pioneer	0	1,625,328
Kalamia	0	1,552,308
Inkerman	38,611	1,598,954
Burdekin	356,430	7,827,503
CCS		
Invicta	0	14.48
Pioneer	0	14.60
Kalamia	0	14.12
Inkerman	12.81	14.32
Burdekin	12.81	14.40

Comments —

Week 24—Just under 25,000 tonnes crushed at Inkerman this week due to a combination of wet weather, a boiler superheater loop failure and challenges processing the stale cane in bins. The average weekly CCS dropped to 13.66, which is below budget due to the rain. The highest CCS sample was 16.6 from a rake of Q240 third ratoon in the Inkerman Mill area. Inkerman employees worked tirelessly to repair the failed superheater loop and associated damage over the weekend, to enable the mill to resume crushing operations.

Week 25—Just under 39,000 tonnes were crushed at Inkerman this week due to wet weather and the challenges of processing stale cane in bins. The average weekly CCS dropped to 12.81, which is below budget due to the rain. The highest CCS sample was 15.60 from a rake of Q183 third ratoon in the Inkerman area. There is only about 45,000 tonnes of cane left to harvest however wet conditions are making it difficult to get harvesting equipment in. We are working with growers and harvesting operators to process the remains of the 2021 crop

**John Tait, Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region**

Uli Liessmann comments . .

A NEW issue for Burdekin small businesses and the question is— are you FOR or AGAINST seven-day trading? This concept will only benefit very large businesses.

THIS is the last letter for this year, hope you have enjoyed the content and issues that I've brought up. You may not agree with my comments, but that does not mean you are negative. Anyway, have a happy Christmas and, above all, have a safe and healthy New Year till next time.

WHAT a great Harvest Festival—in fact the festival went very well with a positive lead-up over the past month. Top marks to the entire volunteer brigade, to the many floats that took part, which makes for a great parade. This year's festival will be a hard act to follow next year.

A very successful night as well for the Festival Mardi Gras, so why weren't the toilets open in the Memorial Hall? I thought this was a public asset and for public use.

THANKS to the council guys who picked up the damaged footpath seat and fixed the footpath manhole cover—all this after just a few days of being notified. I'm impressed as are the rest of the ratepayers with the quick response. Keep this up and I will have nothing to write about.

TALK about the tree removal (picture right) I have been asked a number of times did I offend Council to deserve such treatment. No, just joking I hope, because I didn't see this one coming.



I SPOKE to the Bowen Chamber of Commerce members and all asked about the hold-up with this Council in regard to the water pipeline from the Burdekin to Bowen scheme. A shrug of the shoulders was my reply.

WHILE on the subject of water, the new water storage tank is nearly finished (Pictured top right). What a great asset for Home Hill, and a



Businessman and Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Uli Liessmann reports on local issues of interest in the Home Hill district

great job done by the contractors. They also left a few dollars with the local businesses. Well pleased with the outcome.

A MEETING with the CEO of the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry and among other things, the conversation got on to an industrial precinct for Home Hill, a small one that does not have an humongous price tag attached to it.

It needs to be affordable to the every-day bloke. Here's the chance for Council to commit to establishing a small Industrial Estate or call it a Business Park to reinvigorate and help smaller new business to get off the ground, which would be a positive move.

There could be a chance we could lose what little light commercial business that we have or might ever see. The new Industrial Estate in Ayr, which is attached to the old Industrial Estate, is not a goer at the present time due to many reasons, because of other pressing involvements that council is engaged in.

Support to small business is vital to our economy in this and other communities. That helps to prop up employment and, in turn, helps keep people in the district Council—the voice of small businesses is not strong or loud enough without your support.

ON another note, don't forget the flying foxes in Lloyd Mann Gardens for more brownie points from Homehillians.

THESE are my views only. To contact me, please phone (mob) 0439822064—www.ulliessmann.com.au

- ULI LIESSMANN



Christmas spirit to help more families this festive season

MY annual Christmas appeal is now open and like last year, I am hoping our community will once again be able to bring joy to families in need right across the electorate. Every donation, big or small, makes a huge difference because it shows people who are doing it tough that the community cares and that they are not alone. I know that not everyone is in a position to contribute but the important thing is that we all do what we can to help those less fortunate and that can be as simple as saying hello and sharing a smile. For those who would like to donate to the Christmas appeal, donations can be made at my office until December 17.



Alternatively, if you would like to make a donation but are unable to drop in, please call my office on 4767 0500 and we can arrange collection for you.

David Crisafulli visits the area

IT was great to join Opposition Leader, David Crisafulli in the Burdekin recently and meet with our farmers and community stakeholders.

We know that when it comes to sustainable farming, our growers in the Burdekin are top of the class but unfortunately, time and time again, we see them treated as second class citizens caught up in red tape. David was able to hear directly from farmers about how the current regulations are not

workable and have the potential to impact the towns they support. We know that when our farms are thriving, our towns are too, so it's important that legislation supports them to do that.

Community lobbying prevails

IT was welcome news this month to hear that the days of travelling to Townsville for dialysis are numbered for several Home Hill dialysis patients. After successful community lobbying, I have been advised that Townsville University Hospital will begin recruiting additional staff to extend the availability of the Home Hill dialysis spaces. While other areas have been crying out for renal dialysis spaces, Home Hill was in a unique position of already having spaces for renal patients. It is great to see community lobbying will now mean this facility can increase its use.

A successful 2021 Harvest Festival



One of the many entrants in the Harvest Festival Parade, which extended the length of both sides of Eighth Avenue and impressed the very large crowd that was watching.



The winning Harvest Festival Personality Queen, Mikaela Drain, who represented the Lower Burdekin Water Ski Club.



The Burdekin Race Club float, which won its section in the parade, with their entrant (inset) Amber Kelly.

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 9.30am 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).

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 Club** (phone 0467 566 448) — 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.

Burdekin Friendship Club—Every Monday from 9.30am to 11.30am at St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Cnr Fourteenth Street and Tenth Avenue, Home Hill. \$5 per person. Light entertainment and fellowship. Morning Tea provided.

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 djacko@bigpond.com or secretary@homehillchamber.com