

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community - No 79, June, 2022

Rains set back Wilmar crushing start

RAIN towards the end of May has resulted in plans to commence crushing the 2022 sugar crop at all four of Wilmar's Burdekin sugar mills to be put back.

It was originally proposed that crushing would begin on Tuesday, June 7, but the heavy rain has resulted in the start being delayed to at least June 14 or later.

The company has locked in their pre-season Burdekin crop estimate at 7.94 million tonnes, which is slightly higher than last year's total of 7.88 million tonnes.

Inkerman Mill Production Superintendent, Chris Scovazzi revealed that Inkerman Mill was now on track to start the season on Tuesday, June 14 with Wilmar's plan to begin crushing at all four Burdekin mills on that date. He said a projected finish to the

season was in the third week of November, weather and performance dependent.

Mr Scovazzi said they had started their pre-season commissioning programs in the first week of May in a process designed to ensure a smooth start to crushing operations and included their annual steam trials.

"Inkerman Mill ran its first steam trial on May 24," he said. "The second Inkerman steam trial is planned for Thursday, June 2."

The Mill's Production Superintendent said Wilmar was spending \$8.7 million on capital projects and \$5.6 million on maintenance at Inkerman Mill this year. "We're spending \$3 million on a major remedial works for Inkerman Mill's boiler station to address failures that occurred during the 2021 crush," he said.

"We are also well advanced in our planning for

a major rebuild of Boiler One ahead of the 2023 season," in a major capital project that will cost \$10.5 million.

Mr Scovazzi said major capital projects for Inkerman Mill ahead of the 2022 crush included – Boiler one front wall top buckstay works and primary super heater loops replacement - \$900,000. Work has been completed and they were now into commissioning; Boiler three convection bank tube replacement - \$900,000. Work on this project had been completed and they were now into commissioning. Major upgrade of B-side feeding station to improve tipping station reliability - \$1.1 million. Work was on track and they would complete a lot of the pre-season commissioning before the start of crush to prove the functionality..

Continued on Page 10—

Pipeline Project unaffected by election result

THE change in Federal Government after the recent May elections will have no effect on the future of the Bowen Water Pipeline Project, with the developers of the pipeline, the Bowen Pipeline Company indicating that they were "fortunate that we have support from both sides of government, Federal and State".

Responding to questions from *The Home Hill News* about the election result and its effect on the future of the project, Director of the Bowen Pipeline Company, Sean Brown said that firstly, "the LNP included our \$80 million grant towards construction into the Federal Budget and that was passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate".

"For us to obtain the \$5 million Commonwealth Grant for the Business Case and engineering design, we needed to secure support



Visiting the Burdekin in the period prior to the Federal Election "to walk over the pipeline alignment alternatives" were (from left) Brent Finlay (Steering Committee Chairman, Chairman of the Commonwealth's Future Drought Fund and Past President of the National Farmers Federation) with Matt Bradbury (Engineer), Kathryn Brown (Director), Sean Brown (Managing Director) and Natalie Thorne (Engineer).

from the State," he continued.

Mr Brown said that State Ministers, Glenn Butcher (Minister for Water) and Mark Furner (Minister for Agriculture) both supported the grant application and Minister

Butcher met with their growers and business owners in Gunnedah to announce the state's support for their project.

"As well, we have always had strong support from the

Whitsunday Regional Council from Deputy Mayor Mike Brunker and Andrew Willcox (now the Federal Member for Dawson)."

In the coming weeks, Mr Brown said they would be lodging an application with Burdekin Shire Council (BSC) seeking their agreement to use certain parts of the road reserves for their pipeline alignment.

"We hope to secure the Mayor's and Councillors' support this time," he said.

"Once that is secured, we can lodge our application with the Coordinator-General and the State and Commonwealth assessment process will start."

Mr Brown said the Company's \$300 million investment in the Burdekin Shire and Whitsunday Region "all rests on the BSC agreement to use the road reserves for our pipeline alignment".

IT WAS disappointing to see that, during the elections, visiting politicians again dumped Home Hill like an oily rag, with the Deputy Prime Minister in Ayr for an announcement of more millions for Ayr and then travelling to Bowen (through Home Hill we suppose) to make an announcement about the Bowen Water Pipeline, which will help Bowen and its regions in the long term – but prior to that, it will have major benefits for, and effects on, Home Hill in its construction stage. It is believed that major concerns by present and past local councillors have been about the route through Home Hill – but no thoughts from the visiting politicians on how they can assist our town to move forward because we were again ignored. And that is at a time when the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce is working hard to try to improve the town's standards with limited assistance from any level of government. Home Hill badly needs an industrial estate in the area, but it seems to be out of sight and out of mind to those with any authority at all, and with the initial pipeline works to start in Home Hill, what would have been wrong with the politicians stopping in the town to make comments on both projects – even if they could not find a cent for Home Hill? It looks like another three years before the town can attract any interest at all in any project – except for the state election when it comes around in 2024.

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has made major changes to its meeting procedures to encourage more participation by members and supporters—but so far, it has not been a total success. The first meeting under the changes in April did attract a strong-

The finer points of Home Hill . .



THE Burdekin Shire Council's first "Feast by the Field" has been described as a "fantastic addition to the Sweet Days, Hot Night's Festival's two-year program" for the 150 people who were prepared to pay the \$125 per head fee that was put on the event to treat guests to "the best of the Burdekin's people, produce and culture". At that price, it certainly would be hoped that it was a success, but it is hard to compare that crowd to the previous year's events when large numbers were present for the more casual food and entertainment available ahead of the cane firing that many of our tourists looked forward to. With large numbers of visitors in town at this time of the year—both at the Comfort Stop and at a well supported Showgrounds camping area, there certainly would have been a lot more people willing to attend an event that included the

cane firing of previous years. Our photo above taken early on the Friday shows the area for the feast beside a healthy field of cane and even if it was not ready now, it could still provide a pleasing fire to visitors who have never seen one in person. At a time when the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce is trying to encourage use and support of local businesses and to keep as much business as possible in the town, it is disappointing to see our council supporting a Townsville catering firm for one of our major events. Home Hill, in fact the entire district, does have capable caterers who could provide such a feast of the Burdekin's products. One pleasing aspect reported by the council was the use of "high school hospitality students" to gain experience at the event. Maybe some of the Home Hill High School's agricultural course products may have even been on the menu?

er attendance, mainly because there was interest from the community on the future of the town and the need for something to be done to correct a situation where the town has numerous vacant buildings in its Central Business District, but few are available because of their poor condition—or because absent landlords have gone into receivership. However, the May meeting was disappointing for the lack of attendance, even though the Chamber had arranged positive speakers on two subjects that are of major benefit to our town. One was the Production Superintendent of Inkerman Mill, Chris Scovazzi, who spoke about the mill's progress ahead of the start of the forthcoming harvest in June. The other speakers were Home Hill High School Principal, Frank Kingma and School teacher, Louise Nicholas, who expanded on the school's major agricultural project including recent developments in Horticultural Education. Both were of huge interest to the town, with Wilmar spending multi-millions on upgrading

Inkerman Mill while the High School has received an unprecedented half a million dollars from the state government towards their new agricultural program—who would have believed any level of government could have found that much for anything in Home Hill based on the town's past experiences? Next month, one of the planned speakers will be from the Ayr Refund Depot for the Containers for Change—All towns were promised a depot when the program was introduced but once again Home Hill missed out and the Ayr Depot's representatives are coming to explain how they help our town—but will it mean we could have a depot of our own in the near future? The attendance of a greater number of members at the next Chamber meeting at the Home Hill Community Sports Club at 5.30pm on Wednesday, June 15, would help the Chamber in its efforts to get a positive result for Home Hill—or will it have to be a political campaign ahead of the next state election?

- DAVID JACKSON

Speakers add to chamber meetings

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce continued with their new format for their monthly meetings in May, with informative speakers providing interesting insights into developments taking place in the Home Hill community in the coming months.

One was the coming sugar crushing season at Inkerman Mill, with Production Superintendent, Chris Scovazzi discussing the programs undertaken by Wilmar Sugar in the lead-up to the June start to the crushing while Home Hill High School Principal, Frank Kingma and teacher Louise Nicholas detailing information on recent developments in Horticultural Education at the school, which resulted in a grant of half a million dollars to the project. The school representatives explained that Agricultural Practices was an applied Senior subject which provides opportunities for students to explore, experience and earn knowledge and practical skills valued in agricultural work places and other settings. Students build knowledge and skills about two areas – animal studies and/or plant studies with safety and management practices embedded across both areas. The school project received funding from the Australian Government Local Schools Community Fund with the support of former Member for Dawson, George Christensen and support and donations from members of the local community. The school is in the second year of the project and are well under way

with harvesting of crops with the support of local Agronomists.

Their products are being used in the school tuckshop, at local restaurants and Meals on Wheels and fresh vegetables can be purchased through the school.

Inkerman Mill Production Superintendent, Chris Scovazzi spoke of this year's Burdekin crop estimate, which is set at 7.94 million tonnes – slightly higher than last year's total throughput of 7.88 million tonnes

Inkerman's crop is estimated at 1.74 million tonnes – also up on last year's 1.69 million tonnes

(Our front page story carries details of points raised by Mr Scovazzi in his address to the Chamber.)



Chamber of Commerce guest speakers from the Home Hill High School, agricultural teacher Louise Nicholas and Principal Frank Kingma.



Home Hill Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Uli Liessmann (left) with Inkerman Mill Production Superintendent, Chris Scovazzi.



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Enter now for the Harvest Festival Ephemera

PROSPECTIVE entrants in the annual Home Hill Harvest Festival Ephemera has been urged to get their entry forms in as soon as possible for the 2022 event, as entries close on Friday, June 10. Now in its fifth year, the Canefields Ephemera has been described as "Home Hill's sculpture festival" - a much loved and anticipated annual event, which has continued to grow over the years to its current standing as an outdoor sculpture exhibition.

The Canefields Ephemera is organised by the Home Hill Harvest Festival and the eight-week long display brings together the community to celebrate local artists. Ephemera artwork is meant

to be short-lived and enjoyed by visitors day and night, while it is on display. The Open Prize for the event is \$1500, with \$500 for the runner-up and \$300 for the People's Choice.

The timetable for the event includes successful applicants being notified by Friday, June 17 and the catalogue information and image finalised by September 5, 2022.

Installation of entries will be between Friday, August 26 and Sunday, September 4 with the opening of the Ephemera being from 6pm on September 10. Entries will have to be taken down by Saturday, November 17.

All exhibits will be displayed in Lloyd Mann Gardens, Home Hill and a maximum of 10 exhibits will compete. Non-

competitive exhibits can be displayed alongside competing exhibits.

The \$300 Artist's fee payable by the Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee (\$150 provided initially and the remaining \$150 upon installation) will be available for each of the 10 successful entries to go towards costs associated with the exhibit. The entry form must be fully and correctly completed by the due date to be considered for the Artist's fee and successful entrants must produce an exhibit.

Exhibits can be advertised for sale and must be accompanied with a price tag if for sale.

Commission on sales is at 10 per cent to the Harvest Festival Committee.

The awards will be announced

at the Festival Launch in Lloyd Mann Gardens on Saturday, September 10 and all exhibits must remain on display until the end of the Harvest Festival period in November.

Prospective entrants should fill out the entry form and email it to the Exhibition Co-ordinator, Uli Liessmann (0439 822 064 or hannoveru@bigpond.com). Factors that should be taken into consideration by the artist should include materials; addressing the current contemporary art diaspora and the site chosen; suitability for public interaction; displaying and viewing day and night; environmental factors; health and safety; Securing the sculpture; skills required to complete the work and ability to complete the proposed work on time.

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St Colman's School opens to the public

THE public will be welcomed to St Colman's School in Home Hill on Thursday, June 9, as the school sets out to showcase everything that makes it shine at its 2022 Open Day.

The special day will offer the opportunity for St Colman's Principal, both prospective parents and students to experience the small-school difference St Colman's prides itself on.

Principal, Mrs Karen Keys said it was this "small-school difference" which set the school apart.

"St Colman's is a community school, in that every student feels like part of the family and is connected," she said.

"The care and attention to detail in our teaching enables every child to excel, with our teachers constantly striving to offer a modern and comprehensive education.

"Students are taught by specialist teachers in the areas of Music, Sport, Technology and Italian to ensure they are receiving the highest quality education. Technology remains at the forefront of their



schooling, with at least one laptop or tablet available for each student at any time."

Mrs Keys said that during the Open Day, visitors would be able to meet one of the 12 new robots, which have recently been purchased by the school and which students will program as a part of Technology classes.

The principal said the combination of a close-knit school community and North Queensland lifestyle made for a perfect sea change.

"In 2021, my family decided to sell our drought-ravaged small sheep farm in rural New South Wales and look for our next opportunity," Mrs Keys said.

"I have always had a passion for small rural schools after being Principal of a school in Manilla in New South Wales for a decade and my family love the outdoors and fishing, making the Burdekin a perfect choice.

"In a world with so many challenges and changes, St Colman's offers a close knit community, which



A happy group of St Colman's School pupils including (from left) Dani Broadhead, Freja Caesar, Mia Bojack, Hudsyn Bradford, Xanthe Godfrey and Charlee Heatley.

enables each child to feel safe, so that they can develop their skills and become a productive member in society.

"In 2023, we will have enrolment spaces, with classes consisting of Prep, grades 1/2, grades 3/4 and grades 5/6. The school presently has an enrolment of 80 students." Mrs Keys said they were especially calling for enrolment applications for Prep in 2023, with plenty of time for children to still be a part of their Connecting Prep program.

"This initiative enables prospective Prep students to join us eight

times during Term Four of 2022 to meet their future classmates and teacher to become comfortable with school life."

She said the best way to find out more about their school or the many programs offered was to get in contact, visit for a tour, or join them for the Open Day. "I look forward to meeting prospective parents and students soon," she said.

The Open Day will take place from 9.30am to 11am on Thursday, June 9 and will include the opportunity to meet teachers, experience classes and celebrate what sets St Colman's apart.

More renal nursing staff for Hospital

THE days of Home Hill dialysis patients travelling 100km for renal treatment could soon be over, according to the State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, after a recent announcement that additional renal nursing staff would be employed at the Home Hill Hospital.

After community lobbying brought the need for increased use of the renal facility to the fore, Mr Last said dialysis patients were still on a waiting list to use a facility in their own town, but news that a new renal nurse could soon be recruited was welcomed.

"It is incredibly concerning that while Home Hill has been in a unique position, where there are spaces for renal patients, they were not able to

benefit all renal patients in the community, because there simply wasn't the staff," Mr Last commented.

"I am advised that the recruitment campaigns for a Clinical Nurse and Registered Nurse for the Home Hill facility have recently closed, with the panel now commencing the selection process, which is a great step forward for more dialysis spaces in Home Hill." Mr Last said ensuring more dialysis patients were able to receive treatment without having



Dale Last MP

to travel to Townsville was a positive outcome for the entire health service, not just now but into the future.

"Having these facilities in a small town are invaluable, not only to current patients but any future patients needing dialysis treatment," he said.

"The announcement that more residents on dialysis would be able to use the facility is great news.

"I am sure that after six months of waiting, those patients, many of whom are elderly, will be looking forward to not having to drive 100km down the road to receive dialysis treatment."

Success continues for Growers race day

THE Burdekin Grower Race Day has continued to grow its status as one of the major events on the North Queensland entertainment calendar, after thousands of racegoers flocked to the Home Hill Race Track on Saturday, June 21 for the 2022 event.

The course was a picture following the heavy rain of the previous week and while the conditions were overcast for most of the day, it did not deter the large crowd in attendance. Race Club President Rick Gudge said he was very happy with the attendance considering the day coincided with other major events in the region.

"It was a great crowd and we as a club really appreciate the patronage of the racing fraternity, the backing of our sponsors and community and the out-lying regions."

He also thanked the owners and trainers for their continued support along with Racing Queensland for allowing the club to have eight races in Home Hill "for the first time ever". "I viewed 2022 Burdekin Growers Race Day to be the best ever," he said, "with plans already in place for the twenty-fifth year Silver Anniversary in May 2023."

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin also congratulated the Race Club on the successful event, which was "well-loved and incredibly well supported by the Burdekin community".

"This event injects a significant amount into our economy through the retail, accommodation and hospitality sectors, as well as patrons spending at the event itself."



Millinery Masterpiece runner-up, Bonnie Cox (left) with the winner, Karly Rubins

Many patrons took advantage of the offer of a carton of fresh produce to take home at the end of the day, while the crowd socialised through the evening while singing and dancing to Trent Bell and his band on the Wilmar Sugar Stage.

Major prize winners in the Don West Toyota Treasure Chest were Liam Curtis (Trip to Bali) and Rachael Jackson (Sydney Staycation), while two \$500 cash prizes went to Renee Kenny and Stewart Burbidge. There were another 44 mega prizes won on the day and anyone who did not collect their prize will be notified in due course. Pick the local winners for races 3,4,5,6 and 7 for \$1000 cash saw two patrons go very close to selecting the five winners, but did not quite make it across the line. The winning numbers were 5, 4, 1, 8 and 5

Official Race Judge Torrie Davies said Racing Queensland stewards had commented that Home Hill boasts one of the best race tracks in North Queensland, with a record number of acceptances and eight races on the day.

The majority of races were close finishes, except for the first in which Grey Zone (Scott Sheargold), trained by Olivia Cairns, won by 6.5 lengths ahead of Laterally, with Tex's Girls four lengths further back.

Trainer Shryn Royes made the long trip from Richmond with her horse, Red Red Rose for the Benchmark 45 Handicap, which paid off as the horse won at 21/1 in the betting ring.

Three even money favourites greeted the judge for first in their respective races, with all other winners were at good odds.

Two locally owned horses battled out the finish of the sixth race, with the Trevor and Gloria Davies owned Molongle Drifter finishing just in front of Keighley Sun, trained by club president Ricky Gudge.

Mackay trainer John Manzlemann had 16 horses competing in different races throughout the afternoon and they were successful with Lets Torque A Deel (Kelsey Lenton) in the feature race of the day, The Carlton and United Breweries Burdekin Cup over 1830 metres.

Fashion Winners were—Millinery Masterpiece: Winner, Karly Rubins; Runner-Up, Bonnie Cox; Stylish Gentleman: Winner, Nathan Toll; Runner-Up, Justin Bryer; Contemporary Lady: Winner, Ashley Hiscox; Runner-Up, Louisa Daley; Classic Lady: Winner, Trudy Bryer; Runner-Up, Belinda Ogilvie; Best Dressed Couple: Winners, Chelsea and Philip Burger, Runner-Up, Tim Warren and Brody Young. Trudy Bryer and Nathan Toll won their way to Brisbane to contest the Brisbane final at the Eagle Farm Race Course on June 25.



ABOVE—Lets Torque a Deel (9) (Kelsey Lenton) narrowly wins the Burdekin Cup ahead of Necessitas (Denicious Smith). BELOW—Winning combination of owners, trainers and jockey Kelsey Lenton with Let's Torque a Deel after their Burdekin Cup success.

Photos by Saskia Vollema-Creek



Ammoudi Bay ridden by Scott Sheargold wins the Battle of the Bush Qualifying Open from Mishani Rebel (Wanderson D'Avila) with Night Attire (Amanda Thomson) in third place.

River levels below flood height—and barras and crabs appear

With JEANETTE GARVEY

SIGHS of relief echoed through Groper Creek when flood water levels failed to reach originally predicted heights last month. Thoughts were with our Burdekin neighbours in Giru, who had two major flood clean-ups after rain fell in the Haughton River catchment. Groper Creek residents were advised to be prepared and the unusual May weather system was monitored via the Burdekin Shire Council's Disaster Dashboard. At the time, the Groper Creek Caravan Park had 38 caravaners, who were told to be prepared to leave if the height at Inkerman Bridge went above the minor 7m flood level. A meeting of park visitors was called and some decided to head into town for a few days to see what eventuated, whilst others packed up ready for a hasty retreat if modelling had waters coming over the reserve. Some were concerned as there were rumours that the Comfort Stop had closed due to Covid, however, that was never the case, according to the Council. As the rain clouds settled, we received the good news that the water coming over the Burdekin Dam wall upstream and all other points below was not going to affect Groper Creek residents. Inkerman Bridge steadied at 5.58m on May 15, with 2.44m over the Burdekin Dam spillway and all began to thankfully drop. The flow was enough to flush out some nice mud crabs and barramundi, with many tourists utilising their rainy downtime to support local pubs and businesses and get their fishing tackle ready for the sunny skies ahead.

LESSONS in how homeowners could be better prepared for floods could be learnt from Groper Creek, where our iconic "houses on stilts" are built up high for a reason. Data released by the Climate Council just

prior to the Federal Election stated 99.07 per cent of Groper Creek properties are at risk of becoming uninsurable by 2030. The question has been raised that why should localities like Groper Creek be penalised when the homes are clearly built to withstand flooding? Perhaps there will be a return to the old-fashioned high-set Queenslander home, particularly in populated low-lying city areas where low-set homes have become the norm and creating flood insurance issues for others? Let's see what the new Government does with regards to lowering insurance costs and providing more funding for disaster resilience to combat climate change.

VISITORS staying at Groper Creek Caravan Park from June to October have the chance to win \$1 million, thanks to a joint campaign by the Caravan Parks Association of Queensland (CPAQ) and the Caravan Industry of Australia. Each night that a guest stays, they have the opportunity to fill in an online entry form, which could see them on the road to becoming a millionaire! The campaign is designed to inspire Australians to travel across Queensland . . . and judging by the number of caravans on the road, they certainly are! We may also see some



Jetty Jottings

locals deciding to hook up their vans for a local stay at Groper Creek with the chance of becoming an instant millionaire.



Burdekin Tourism volunteers took the opportunity to check out the vibrant mural by the talented Jon Electros on the Groper Creek amenities block, which is now part of the Burdekin Art Trail.

NATIONAL Volunteers Week was commemorated with a sumptuous morning tea at Groper Creek Caravan Park last month. Attended by about 20 volunteers from the Burdekin Tourism Information Centres, who man Ayr's Plantation Creek and Home Hill's Railway Station information Centres, the morning provided volunteers with the opportunity to stroll through the park and familiarise themselves with Groper Creek's facilities. Burdekin Mayor Lyn McLaughlin took the opportunity to personally thank those in attendance for their work in promoting the Burdekin to thousands of visitors each year.



Volunteers on the Groper Creek jetty were (from left) Cecil Brennan, Barry Hewson, Patrice Ferguson, Marg Greenwood, Shirley Chard, Lorryn Rennie, Barb Sullivan and Chrissy Theofanes.

GROPER Creek is currently in the grip of State of Origin fever! The rivalry seems to gather momentum each year, as various camps display their state's colours with lots of jovial pranks and fun get-togethers. May the best team win in 2022!



Kindred Spirits returns to entertain

IT IS on again – quality entertainment from the artistic talents of local residents, as Ruth Stockdale and her *Kindred Spirits* group of singers have been busily preparing for another of their popular concerts, with “a great variety of popular music, which is sure to entertain”.

The group has been rehearsing for several weeks for their “Musical Moments” afternoon, which will take place on Saturday, June 18.

The concert will take place in the Minor Hall at the Burdekin Memorial Hall from 2pm, with doors opening at 1.30pm.

On top of the musical entertainment, there will be a multiple draw cent sale and the usual delicious afternoon tea.

A great afternoon has been assured, with all proceeds going to the Queensland Cancer Fund.

Tickets are available from the members of the group or from Ruth Stockdale (4782 1399).



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Parliament Update

PARLIAMENT returned again last week and, with no sittings in April, there was certainly plenty to prosecute.

There is only one sitting left until the State Government hands down its budget for 2022/2023 and I will be continuing my fight for funding in Health, Education and Roads. Throughout the pandemic, major industries in this electorate like agriculture and mining, kept our state and national economy going through what could be described as one of the most challenging times in history.

Despite this, we still have roads that need significant improvement, schools without adequate staffing or permanent water solutions and health services that are not meeting the needs of their communities.

Bowen Pipeline secures \$80m federal support

THE \$80M election commitment by the federal LNP for the Bowen Pipeline offered benefits for our wider region, including Home Hill.

This project is one that I have supported since its inception, because of the economic benefits for Bowen and Gumlu. In addition to creating much-needed jobs during construction, it will provide a secure water supply for the agricultural and horticultural industries in the area.

Tafe colleges must support our local industries and their futures

ONE of the key issues affecting the future of agricultural industries is the ability to train the next generation of farmers.

It appears that, after closing two of the last agricultural training colleges in Queensland, Labor has finally realised that, in order to continue to feed our state and our nation, we need a pathway for future generations to enter the industry. While the commencement of the Agriculture Centre of Excellence at Bowen TAFE is welcomed, I can't help thinking about how much more we could achieve by expanding agricultural training to the under-utilised TAFE college in Home Hill.

A long journey on health

IT HAS been a long, but worthwhile fight to expand dialysis services at the Home Hill Hospital.

The Townsville Hospital & Health Service has confirmed that recruitment for additional nursing positions has been completed. It will be a great day when those staff start work and locals can have their treatment closer to home, saving them the hassle of travelling to Townsville several times a week. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in securing these services.

Uli Liessmann comments . .

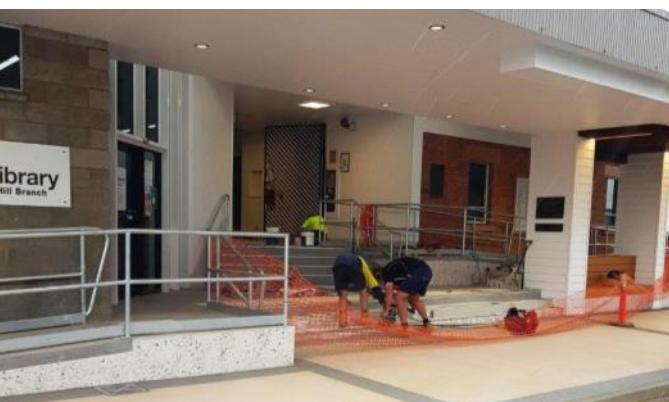
THE once-a-month Home Hill Chamber Social is going from strength to strength. With special guest speakers, it makes for a very interesting night. You will have the opportunity to hear what is not printed in the local newspaper. The social meeting will be held at the Home Hill Sports Club (former Bowling Club) each month. Admittedly there are a lot of issues that have to be ironed out, but the Chamber is working on that. The social is open to the general public almost like a public forum, if you have something to say with backable facts, you can have a say. Anything for an informative friendly evening, so please come and say what you want to, or just listen—it will only take one hour of your life.



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

at an end, for better or worse, depending on what side of the fence you are standing on. Just don't be a fence-sitter, it does no-one any good including the sitter, stand by your convictions. Just a thought on the voting booths in Ayr—I thought the lighting was very poor and this was mentioned a couple of times by different voters, or are we just cutting back on costs, starting with electricity?

NOT happy times ahead with Council's budget time, but we are lucky, as we live in one of the wealthiest shires in Queensland. I realise a lot of this money is held for contingency funds, but keeping all this in mind, should or could council do the right thing by having minor increases in water, sewerage and rubbish and in particular burial charges? Inflation is at an all time high, don't add to it with over-inflated rate increases. Also, now is the time to extend the pensioner's rebate across all pensioners and showing a good face to help ease the burden on the ever-increasing cost of living. This is where bold councillors have a crack and stand up and voice public opinion, even to the point of fighting a losing battle—but you will be remembered for your effort. Have a look at the rates with a thought for the people who support the council, keeping in mind we don't have to be the richest shire in Queensland. Lower income earning shires also survive. Tighten the belt by two notches and yes we might even attract more people to live in a more affordable shire. Lucky there is a good farmer base to pay a large part of the rates.



TOP marks to council for acting so quickly in fixing the main stairs leading into the Memorial Hall (pictured above). Hate to know what happened behind the scenes and who was at fault (if anyone) and no repercussions, just another cost to the bottom line. Who's counting?

HERE is food for thought. While we are talking about the Memorial Hall and the great shows that are put on there—what about a coffee/tea automatic dispensing machine for the Memorial Hall or are there still friends of the hall or could the Friends of the Theatre fill this gap? Not everyone wants to consume alcohol at a show production.

BY the time you read this newsletter, the polling will be

Reading in the *Burdekin Local* (May 19, 2022) Council works updates, I sadly noticed seven jobs on the north side and two jobs on the south side and it does not get any better in upcoming works.

These are my views. To contact me, phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or go to www.uliliessmann.com.au.

- ULI LIESSMANN

LOCAL residents have until Monday, June 6 to apply for the second round of 2022 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) projects.

RADF, a partnership between the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Burdekin Shire Council, invests in quality arts and cultural experiences across Queensland on a local level.

Apply now for RADF grants

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said there would be two rounds of RADF-funded projects in 2022, with applications for projects to be undertaken between July and December now being accepted.

She said the Regional Arts Development Fund had been instrumental in shaping a number of fantastic events and initiatives in the Burde-

kin over the past few years.

"I encourage any individual or organisation that has an idea, program or project that would directly develop the arts, to consider applying," Cr McLaughlin said.

"RADF is able to support visual art or design, craft, performing arts, multicultural arts, festivals and literature – the only limits are appli-

cants' imaginations."

For more information or to apply, go to bit.ly/RADFBurdekin.

The Regional Arts Development Fund Advisory Group is also looking for a new member, with a vacant position currently available on the group and expressions of interest closing on Monday, 6 June. The group, grants funding to local individuals or groups for creative projects or events.

Use your train brain

GIVE WAY TO CANE TRAINS

Pre-season training of locomotive drivers is under way in the **Burdekin region**.

wilmar

Delayed Crushing

Continued from page 1—“This project will go a long way to increase reliability on B side and reduce factory interruptions,” he said. “We will be completing an A-side upgrade ahead of the 2023 season.”

Mr Scovazzi also said major maintenance projects for Inkerman Mill included – Boiler inspections and hydrostatic pressure testing of boiler tubing; All boiler furnace grate and refractory; Significant work on Boiler one (which caused most of the disruptions to crushing last season); Boiler two Iris testing of tube work; Bagasse conveyor gearbox overhauls; Conveyor belt replacements; Feed water monitoring and sampling.

Car Boot Sale

THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association will host its monthly Car Boot, Ute and Market Stalls on Saturday, June 11 in front of Ashworth’s Rock Shop commencing at 8am. For site bookings, phone Desley (0497 356 355 or Sandi (0427 821 065). Lots of room available for stall sites.

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

170 Arts on the Avenue—The Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. invites you to inspect their display of various arts and craft forms at the Ashworths Rock Shop complex each day from 10am to 5pm Tuesday 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 Friends and Neighbours Craft Group—meets every Wednesday from 9am to 11.30am at the Home Hill Community Sports Club, Ninth Avenue, Home Hill for general craft activities and cooking tips. Cost is \$3 with morning tea. Phone 0427 804 129 for more information

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