

CBD takes positive steps in right direction

FOR many years, the ever-increasing topic of conversation in Home Hill amongst both local residents and visitors alike has been the increasing number of empty shops and, more recently, the lack of business premises available to possible operators, even though there seems to be more than adequate space available.

However, in recent weeks, there has been a change in the conversations, as the direction the town has been taking has taken a positive turn, with a number of new businesses taking up some of that vacant space in the Central Business District.

It all started with a letter written by returning businessman, Ron Scott (pictured right in front of his new business premises) to the *Home Hill News* about the difficulties he had in finding a home for the business he wanted to open.

That came at the same time as former Home Hill businessman, Ross Tapiolas moved his business, My Pets, to Ayr because he could not find a suitable premises in the Home Hill CBD.

The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce followed up with a public meeting to discuss the direction the town should take to try to counter the actions of absent landlords, who make it difficult for prospective new business operations to open up in the town. However, the outlook for Home Hill seems to be changing as new business operators come to town and start taking up what space they can for new outlets.

One of the first was Peter Caesar (pictured in his laundrette) and his wife, who sold a motel on the Sunshine



Coast for health reasons and decided to move north, eventually settling in Home Hill where they purchased the Nicko's takeaway business (pictured below) in the town.

They did not stop there as they expanded by adding a sit-down open air area on the adjacent block, where customers could enjoy their food purchases, while also adding an ice machine, garage, fencing, storage containers and freezers and also expanding his products to introduce Chinese food to the menu. Peter did not stop with the takeaway business, as he recently leased a shop across the road to install a Laundrette, with professional equipment imported from the United States to serve both the town's residents and the many



visitors who stopped in town. That new business includes



9kg, 12kg and 16kg and 18kg washing machines, which can be used at a cost of \$6 to \$12 each or the four dryers, which cost one dollar (\$1) for six minutes and is open 4am to 8pm. The machines are installed in such a way that they will not be affected by flooding in the town. Peter said he liked living in Home Hill and described business as "good", with excellent support from the local community.

TWO other newcomers to Home Hill, who are adding to our Central Business District are Allan and Cathy McRoberts (pictured below), who moved to the town in March from Midge Point (near Proserpine) where the couple were in the Caravan Park industry, while Allan is also a carpenter by trade. They left the caravan park they were in and while on a trip to Townsville, Allan said he "had a good feeling about Home Hill" and suggested they call in on the way back.

They did just that and decided to stay, settling in the town, where they have established Callan Fencing Services and operate from a newly-constructed building in the centre of the CBD. That building was the original home of Ron Scott's business, True North Interiors, which has now moved into their newly-renovated and upgraded home (next door to the Home Hill BP Service Station). Allan said he had put his business cards into the BP service station and he found work straight away, while also advertising his new business regularly in *the Home Hill News*.



UNEMPLOYMENT seems to be a major problem right around Australia—not because of the lack of jobs, but because there does not seem to be enough people to fill the many positions available, even in a small community like Home Hill. It is unusual to see farms and businesses with signs publicly seeking people to fill positions from labourers through to the best of tradies or even professionals, as pointed out by Member for Burdekin, Dale Last in his comments in this issue, without success. Many years ago, students were keen to find a position they could fill after they finish their daily studies, to earn some extra cash, instead of depending on Mum and Dad. However, we are told that there are students who are willing to work—but it has to be on their terms, such as parties and sport taking preference for their time over the boss's need when the business is busy. It is hard for a business to operate on those terms and it means that some operators will be looking at reducing their opening times if they cannot get staff fast. As can be seen from our lead story, there are people wishing to open businesses in Home Hill, but there is little chance of that happening if they cannot employ the staff they need to keep the business moving forward. If there are people looking for jobs in Home Hill to earn more cash to help the family's finances, ask questions around town about what is available, but don't expect to be successful if they cannot work to the times the business needs their input.

IT WAS not that long ago that it was suggested that the worst section of the Bruce Highway was between Home Hill and Mackay and any motorists who have travelled the route in the past year would not disagree. With a growing road toll in Queensland from traffic accidents, state and federal governments have made announcements about spending millions of dollars being pumped into the Bruce Highway in the next 12

The finer points of Home Hill . .

WE were provided with an interesting photo from the past recently as a reader raised the historical significance of the photo of the former rail motor that took passengers from Bowen to Townsville and return on a Monday to Friday basis on what was its final daily run. The service was popular at a time when transport was not as modern as it is today and it transported students to outside schools while mothers and grandparents took the opportunity to take their offspring on daily outings to the big city—you could leave Home Hill around 8am and return around 4pm. While similar rail motors as the one pictured still operate in northern and western areas of the state, there is no such service along the coast any more—although there have been suggestions in recent times for rail services to



months to make one of the most dangerous stretches of the road a little safer—\$30 million to be spent on eight projects between Ayr and Ingham. While \$30 million does not seem enough for one project, let alone eight, why isn't there more being spent on that section that was previously suggested to be the worst on the Bruce Highway? Admittedly, there has been many millions spent on the Home Hill to Mackay section in the past year in widening projects and installing passing lanes and at much more than the recently announced \$30 million—but that would be because of the time taken to finish the projects after the company undertaking the project ended up with financial problems and a new firm had to be found to finish the job. Maybe if the state stopped spending multi-billions on major projects in the south-east corner of the state and on an unnecessary Olympic games in 10 years time, there may be more for highway improvements now.

THE Covid pandemic caught up with the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce at the same time as their July meeting, as the lack of guest speakers available resulted in the meeting being cancelled. In line with its new direction in bringing guest speakers to each of its monthly meetings held at the Home Hill Community Sports Club, the Chamber had invited a guest from the Department of Small Business in Townsville as well as two other speakers who were to cover

take passengers from Mackay to Townsville for major events such as Cowboys' games—but it seems it is much easier for the state government to find billions for rail services in Brisbane than it is to provide services in the north where people could have a safe journey to a game rather than take their chances on our busy highways. There must be many former Sunlander carriages sitting in railway workshops just waiting to be resurrected to offer such a service?

local topics. However, it was a case of all good planning coming to nothing as the department could not provide anyone at the last minute because of staff and covid issues and the other speakers were also not available. However, chamber members are assured the August meeting will go ahead, as it will be the Annual General Meeting and it is hoped there will be a strong representation at the meeting starting at 5.30pm on Wednesday, August 17. And as part of the election of officers, the Chamber is keen to see a female member put their hand up to take a role on the management committee. There are very competent female business operators in the Home Hill business community and it would be good to see them putting their hands up to join in the running of the chamber. Remember—our town will be the major beneficiary.

THE dyslectic gremlins found their way into our pages in the July issue of the Home Hill News, as a transposition of numbers gave the wrong impression on the rate rise claimed by the council in their annual budget announcement. While the front page told the correct story, announcing a 2.5 per cent rate rise in the general rate, the heading on the turnover on page 11 turned the rise into 5.2 per cent—not something ratepayers would have been happy to see. We hope our readers took note of the initial part of the story and did not put much credence on our error later in the report?

- DAVID JACKSON

Racing remembers Ray Tapiolas with ‘Drover Cup’

BURDEKIN Race Club President, Ricky Gudge has highlighted the need for the club to “source younger members if our club is going to survive in the coming future”.

Speaking at a recent club meeting following the loss of long-serving member, Past President and Life Member, Ray (Drover) Tapiolas, Mr Gudge said it was a sad note to start a meeting on, as he acknowledged the contribution made by Mr Tapiolas to the running of the club, “as well as having the privilege of being awarded life membership”. “This has been an all too often occurrence and it is just a reminder that we must start trying to source younger members if our club is going to survive in the coming future,” Mr Gudge told the meeting.

Club members had formed a Guard of Honour at the funeral for Mr Tapiolas, which was held at the Club’s Home Hill complex a day before their July race meeting, when the main race of the day, the “Drover Cup”, run over 1830 metres, was dedicated as a memorial to “Drover Tapiolas”, as he was well known throughout the industry in the north.

Mr Gudge described the race meeting as “a great day with fantastic racing and wonderful patronage” and he said the inaugural “Drover Cup” was won by a trainer, who regularly supported their meetings.

“Acceptances delivered full fields in all but one race, support from owners, jockeys and trainers continues to grow and the track recovered well from the rain earlier in the week and from what I’ve heard, there has been nothing but praise for our track.”

Following the meeting on July 9, the club commenced work on an upgrade of their track, which will allow it to recover in time for the next race meeting in Home Hill at the end of October.

The Club President said track upgrade was likely to be completed by the end of that week.

He said Racing Queensland representatives, Warren Williams and Dave Morrison had inspected the works and were happy with the early progress. “Matt Cotton (also from Racing Queensland) has informed me that the last of the required running rail will be despatched with an arrival time of approximately two weeks,” Mr Gudge said, as work is also planned to replace the track’s running rails. The installation of that project is being undertaken with the assistance of the grounds personnel at the Townsville Turf Club, after the Home Hill Club President had sought their assistance.

As part of its efforts to take the club forward, Mr Gudge said the Club had also had a meeting with the Burdekin Shire Council with regard to leasing further grounds to allow for the installation of another starting chute for future race meetings.



ABOVE—The winning combination in the Drover Cup run in memory of Ray Tapiolas with the winning horse, Norah with trainer Georgie Holt and the owners of the winner.



BELOW—Ray Tapiolas’ Family was well represented at the presentation after the first race in July, as the winner, Dawn Strike, was part-owned by Chris Tapiolas (Photos by Saskia Vollema-Creek).

LEFT—The late Ray (Drover) Tapiolas (right) with one of his many successes as a trainer on the Home Hill Track. (Photo by David Jackson).





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Locals caring for locals



Tennis Association Rallying for a Cure in Col's memory

WITH over 1,700 people diagnosed with brain cancer in Australia every year, it is a reality the Home Hill Tennis Association is all too familiar with, after life member, Col Casswell sadly lost his battle with the disease last year. In the hope of finding a cure and, at the same time, honouring Col, the Tennis Association will be raising funds for the 'Cure Brain Cancer Foundation' - the leading organisation for brain cancer research, advocacy and awareness in Australia - at a "Rally for a Cure" to be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022. Over 23 teams from around Queensland have accepted the challenge to 'Rally for a Cure', which will see players partake in a challenge to play 12

consecutive hours of tennis from 10am to 10pm.

In addition to the main tennis attraction, the day will feature a variety of fun activities for the community with 100 per cent of profits going towards the Foundation.

For those who are feeling lucky, there will also be a range of lucky door prizes, raffles and auctions, with an autographed Ash Barty Australian Fed Cup Shirt and framed Rafael Nadal racquet up for grabs.

Col was an avid tennis lover who dedicated his life to the sport, alongside his family, who have been at the heart of the Burdekin tennis community.

He was also a Life Member of the Home Hill Tennis Association, Board Member of Tennis Queensland and

the Burdekin Shire Council Citizen of the Year in 2021.

Col's wife and a member of the Home Hill Tennis Association, Kate Casswell said "Col gave so much to the community that we feel it is only right that we pay this support forward by supporting the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation to hopefully increase survival rates in other brain cancer sufferers."

Acting CEO of Tennis Queensland, Elia Hill said "Col was a pillar in our tennis community and it is amazing to see Home Hill continue his legacy in such a special way."

Donations for 'Rally for a Cure' can be made to the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.



The Home Hill Tennis Association is Rallying for a Cure in Memory of their Life Member and Tennis Queensland Board Member who was honoured as the Burdekin Shire Council's Citizen of the Year in 2021, prior to his untimely death from brain cancer.

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Burdekin Region Mills

Weeks 05 and 06 —ending July 23, 2022

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	106,563	503,544
Pioneer	19,019	135,713
Kalamia	39,115	165,938
Inkerman	37,414	205,734
Burdekin	202,111	1,010,929
CCS		
Invicta	13.46	13.11
Pioneer	12.94	12.86
Kalamia	12.09	12.46
Inkerman	12.62	12.38
Burdekin	12.99	12.82

Comments —

Week 5—The wet weather event earlier this month has continued to impact harvesting and crushing operations. No cane was harvested or crushed during Week 5. During the forced downtime, crews worked on maintenance in preparation for the resumption of crushing. Crushing operations are scheduled to recommence at Invicta and Kalamia mills on Tuesday, July 19. Inkerman and Pioneer mills are scheduled to restart on Wednesday, 20 July. As always, we ask the public to stay alert around our cane rail network.

Week 6—All of the Burdekin mills restarted crushing operations this week following the significant wet weather stop. Invicta and Kalamia restarted on Tuesday morning, followed by Inkerman on Wednesday morning and Pioneer on Wednesday afternoon. Crushing has been steady, and harvesting groups have worked hard to keep dirt out of the cane supply despite the challenging field conditions. The Burdekin mills crushed just over 200,000 tonnes for the week bringing the season to date total to just over 1 million tonnes. The Burdekin crop continues to cut above estimate and has been revised upwards to 8.15 million tonnes. The average weekly CCS was 12.99, which is well below budget due to the wet conditions. The highest CCS sample was 16.9 from a rake of Q240 P in the Mulgrave productivity zone (Invicta). With harvesting and crushing operations now back in full swing, locals and visitors are reminded to take care around our cane rail network. Please use your train brain and always give way to cane trains.

John Tait,
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region



Register NOW for online read

READERS of *The Home Hill News* are being reminded to register their email address on the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce web site so that they can continue to receive the publication after the printing of hard copies is phased out towards the end of this year.

The Home Hill News will transition to a primarily digital publication by the end of this year, with limited numbers of printed copies available from February 2023.

In readiness for the change, readers who currently look forward to a printed copy of their favourite local publication at the beginning of each month have been encouraged to provide their email address to the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce, thus ensuring they are added to the electronic distribution list to have *Home Hill News* sent directly to their inbox each month.

Chamber President David Jackson said hundreds of readers were already receiving an electronic version of *Home Hill News* to read online or to print their own hard copy. *The Home Hill News* will also be available for readers to access through the Chamber's web site, from

where it is already available.

"For those who do not have a computer, the Chamber will be arranging for some hard copies to be printed each month at a minimal price of about one dollar per copy – but it will have to be ordered and paid for in advance," the Chamber President said. "This will come into effect from February 2023.

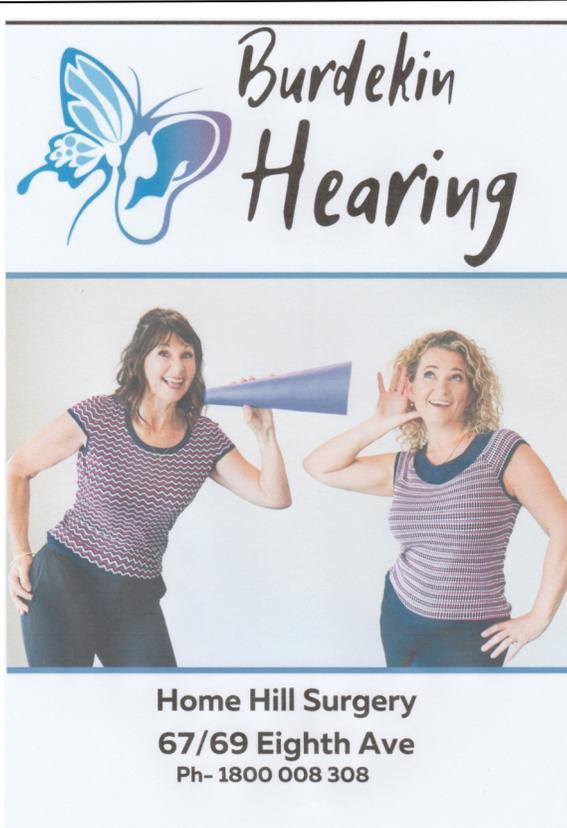
"In the meantime, the number of printed copies of *Home Hill News* available each month will gradually reduce as our digital subscriptions increase."

Mr Jackson said the Home Hill Chamber was extremely grateful for the excellent support received from Wil-

mar Sugar for more than four years and has expressed its gratitude to the company for their ongoing sponsorship, which helped set the publication on its way to being the main source of local news for the Home Hill community and wider afield.

Wilmar management had offered their support with the printing of the newsletter in full colour after an original printing source was lost and it had been ongoing since that time.

"*The Home Hill News* started with just two pages and it has risen to 10 and 12 pages at times – and in that time, the printing has continued monthly with the excellent support of the management and administration staff of Inkerman Mill," he said. "With printing costs increasing significantly, we knew the sponsorship would not be able to continue forever." Mr Jackson said the Chamber was extremely grateful to Wilmar Inkerman Mill for the excellent support they had provided over many years, as their staff devoted many hours of their work time each month to the printing of the publication. To be added to the *Home Hill News* electronic distribution list, readers of the *Home Hill News* should register at homehillchamber.com.au.



Burdekin Hearing

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WITH the book, **A Short History of the Ayr, Home Hill and Burdekin Rugby Leagues 1916 to 1986**, to be launched on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at the Kalamia Hotel Beer Garden in Ayr, the following is an extract from the book which tells of the 1936 North Queensland B Grade Final, in which the Home Hill representative team was defeated by Eacham by 22-8.

Home Hill League history revealed at book launch

UNTIL 1936, the Country Carnival format was used to determine the North Queensland B grade competition.

Ayr and Home Hill representative teams were fierce rivals in the Country Carnival in Townsville, played on August 22 and 23, 1936. Home Hill secured a berth in the final when they accounted for Ayr, 15 - 8 on Saturday, August 22.

However, the match was shrouded in controversy, as the Ayr players who travelled to Townsville by railmotor were delayed in Giru for several hours, arriving at Townsville at 4pm, which was the time the match was scheduled to be played!

In addition, Ayr took the field without J. Williams, D. Tait and NQ centre, Bob Lynch and were still two players short when Home Hill scored their first try. Home Hill capitalised on the situation and raced to a 13 - 0 lead.

By early in the second half, Ayr had all players on board and hit back. However, Home Hill held on to win 15 - 8.

In the other match, Eacham easily accounted for Herbert River 36 - 2 to see Eacham and Home Hill play for the

1936 B grade final.

Home Hill started at a cracking pace when lock forward, Jim Oats scored for Home Hill to take a 3 - 0 lead. No sooner had Home Hill scored when tough front row forward, A. Ballinger was injured and had to be replaced. Midway through the first half, Eacham scored a try which was converted to make the score 5 - 3. Thompson then scored for Eacham while Sonny Glanville scored for Home Hill which saw both teams locked at 8 - 8 at the break.

However, Eacham returned in the second half with two tries that saw their lead stretch to 14 - 8. With ten minutes to play, Eacham scored another try, which was converted to see the score 19 - 8 and the match out of reach for Home Hill.

When Eacham crossed for another try the score had blown out to 22 - 8.

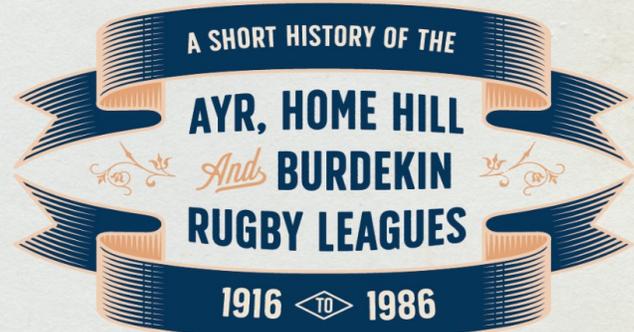
Eacham had secured their second Wilson Cup and the NQ B grade premiership.

Best player awards for the Grand Final were presented to Bert Steele for Eacham and Jim Watson for Home Hill.

The Heatley Blazer for the outstanding player of the carnival was awarded to Ayr hooker, Jack Clive.



The 1936 Home Hill Representative Team, who were the winners of the McAllister Cup Southern Zone B Grade Championship at the Townsville Country Football Carnival. Back: A. S. Dunn (vice-president), F. Maxwell (secretary), J. Watson, R. J. Combey, A.V. Oakes, R. McCowan, W. Malpass, F. Kuhl (executive), D. Hall (supporter); Middle Row: C. Metcalf (referee), A. Rooney (executive), D. Oats, F. Evans, T. Moody, A. Ballinger, J. Carter, J. Oats, D. Berryman, C. Ames (masseur), H. Menkins (ambulance bearer); Front: J. Parravicini, J. Hinkson, Don MacGregor (executive and manager), S. Glanville (captain), F. Haller (executive and manager), J. Mulvaney, C. Morgan. Sitting on Floor: S. Forno, J. Malpass
(Photo courtesy of the Thomas Ralph Jackson collection)



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State of Origin played in good spirits among locals and visitors

With JEANETTE GARVEY

STATE of Origin rivalry was alive and well at Groper Creek with three barbecues held at The Boat House, in aid of the Groper Creek Rural Fire Brigade. About 80 caravanners and locals enjoyed the annual Qld versus NSW clash, with the end result favouring our home state. In good sportsmanship, NSW Blues' supporter, Pam Osborne honoured her bet to paint the QLD Maroon stripe 2022 win on the Groper Creek Origin tally pole/flood marker.



Jetty Jottings

FORMER Home Hill State High School students recently reunited at Groper Creek for a fishing weekend. Although there wasn't too much to skite about at the official weigh-in, the boys did manage to cook up a good feed of chilli crab whilst enjoying their long-awaited catch-up.

Matthew Covolo (right) travelled from Brisbane and managed to land a cod.



GROPER CREEK Rural Fire Brigade has been selected as one of only 39 brigades throughout Queensland to initially receive boosters to enhance Telstra coverage in the area. RFBAQ has teamed up with Telstra, RFSQ and a generous donor to provide the Cel-Fi signal booster which will ultimately improve communications for the safety of the community.



HOME HILL Tennis President Dallan Garvey recently managed to get some time off to go fishing, landing this 96cm Barramundi whilst stuck on a sandbar at the mouth of the Burdekin River, waiting for the tide to come in. Following July's fresh flows in the river, the barra were on the chew despite the cold temperatures.

ANOTHER major milestone for the Home Hill Boat Club will soon be the installation of solar panels at the Groper Creek playground. Following extensive community consultation, ongoing collaboration with the Burdekin Shire Council and solar experts Horan & Bird, the Home Hill Boat Club finalised its solar project at its July monthly meeting, which was attended by club members, Crs Detenon and Perry, along with Horan & Bird representatives. The project will be win-win for the community, providing shade structure over the soon to be revamped playground whilst lowering electricity costs and bettering our ecological footprint.



School mates, (pictured back, from left) Steven Shears, Rowan McDowell, Gavin Davies, Quinton Taitors, Matthew Dumaresq, Steven Michielin, Shaun Healy, Tony Naughton, Steven Cantarella, Ashley Hartwell; front Ryan McDowell and Matthew Covolo.

A FOOTNOTE (or actually more of a "hand note") to last month's story on nationally acclaimed Australian country music guitarist, songwriter and producer, Nev Molloy, who was holidaying at Groper Creek... Nev met with an unfortunate incident during his time at the creek, tripping over whilst trying to save his laptop. Ending up with his left hand and arm in plaster, and his right hand heavily strapped, the luckless episode added another chapter to Nev's already colourful life story. He still worked out a way to go fishing and managed to pen a few more poems on his creek stay, keeping fellow campers entertained.

A REMINDER that Home Hill Boat Club memberships for the 2022/23 financial year became due on 1 July. Payments can be made via the Groper Creek Kiosk.

Welcome change to CBD kerbing

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has been leading the way in efforts to encourage all levels of government to consider



improving the drainage provided through the deep kerbing and channelling throughout the Central Business District of Home Hill, but without much success.

However, the Burdekin Shire Council has moved in the right direction as part of footpath replacement works being carried out on the western side of Eighth Avenue, with the new gutter now in place at two levels (as

shown in our photo), which will make it much easier for occupants of vehicles parking in the area between Eighth Street and the Comfort Stop to access businesses in that section of the town. Elderly residents have a lot of difficulty in crossing the deep gutters and the new work is a great start by the council towards hopefully having more of the kerbing and channelling in Eighth Avenue replaced in the not-too-distant future.



Parliament Update

The state budget for 2022-2023 has been handed down and we are now looking towards Estimates. As members of the opposition this is our opportunity to question the relevant Ministers over Government expenditure and how our services, like police and health will be impacted.

As Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, it's incredibly important to me, that our men and women in blue, our orange army and our firies, have the resources they need to do their job and have the equipment to ensure their safety.

Already the budget has revealed that in the 12 months to the end of March there has been only an additional five police officers employed across the state and no mention of when a review into SES services will be released.

Burdekin's jobs galore needs state government support

While we are so close to seeing more patients able to use dialysis services in Home Hill, the recruitment for additional renal nursing staff at Home Hill Hospital is still ongoing. Having these facilities in a small town are invaluable, not only for current patients but any future patients needing dialysis treatment.

It's a frustrating circumstance within our regional hospitals and major industries, where we have access to facilities and services in our small towns that aren't being used to their capacity because we are unable to attract trained staff to the bush.

What is even more frustrating is that right here in Home Hill we have a TAFE facility that is being underutilised while those who could potentially fill skilled worker shortages have to drive down the road for training.

Currently the unemployment rate in the Burdekin is less than the State so it is not a case of not being able to find a job, it's a case of being able to provide the training and the skills development in the same town where people could be employed.

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MEETING NOTICE

The Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will be held on **Saturday, August 20, 2022**,
commencing at 9.30am
at 170 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill.

All are welcome to attend

Uli Liessmann comments . .

WELL, another budget down and my first impression is, it looks okay, as long as you do not delve into it too deeply, as everything has gone up and user pays. This is only the tip of the iceberg and unless you read the Council rate report, you will not know the extent of the many increases.

It seems that every time we watch the news at the moment, we hear about interest bank charges going up, inflation rising and, of course, the threat of a looming recession, including the price of fresh food, as well as soaring energy, it means ratepayers and the general consumer—which we all are—are nervous.

So, let's talk only about the introduced \$30 aquatic facilities. Don't get me wrong, I'm not against a water park as such, but how about user pays?

This levy is uncalled for when so many other works in this shire are more pressing—just to mention white lines on country roads throughout the shire.



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

Have you ever noticed there are no park benches in any of the parks throughout the Shire? Yes, we have tables and benches, but how about just a few benches with a back rest? - and I don't think we will need a special levy to achieve this.

Council works update as of July 21—North side, five jobs; South side, nil jobs; Giru, three jobs.

Council upcoming work—North side, five, South side, nil jobs

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

ULI LIESSMANN

Burdekin training for Burdekin workers

THE Burdekin TAFE College has been described as being "largely underutilised" by Member for Burdekin, Dale Last as he calls on the state government to provide more training resources in communities struggling to fill chronic work shortages in the regions.

With the Burdekin now among the towns with an unemployment rate the lowest in more than a decade and a local TAFE facility that was underutilised, Mr Last said serious action was needed not only to help small businesses, but the agricultural sector as well.

"The Burdekin's unemployment rate is currently at three per cent, that's less than the state's unemployment rate and we are facing a shortage of people with the skills needed to support our major industries at a time of year when they are needed the most," he said. "The Burdekin is a district that relies on its major industry of agriculture when our farmers are thriving, so is this district, so not having the skilled workers



Member for Burdekin, Dale Last has called for the "under-utilised" Burdekin TAFE to provide more local training.

needed to support that industry has a flow-on effect to our other industries and small businesses.

"This is not a case of people not being able to find a job in this town, this is a case of being able to provide the training and skills development in the same town where those people could be employed."

Mr Last said with the Burdekin TAFE College at Home Hill largely underutilised, there was no excuse for the state government to not provide training for local jobs like haul out drivers at the facility.

"We know that the population growth in the Burdekin is predicted to be less than one per cent over the next two decades, so sending people an hour down the road for training is ludicrous," Mr Last said. "If this state government was serious about supporting small businesses and industries in rural and regional Queensland towns like ours, they would be investing in opportunities to provide training and skills development in the towns where they are going to work.

Artisans markets expand

ARE you having a house or shed cleanout or maybe looking to downsize your fabric stash? The Burdekin Artisan Community Association can assist you through their new Fabric Destash, Car Boot/Ute Market to be held under the trees in front of Ashworths Rock Shop on Sunday, August 14. The Association has been hosting a monthly Car Boot and Ute Market Place on Saturday mornings for many months. However, in a new concept, they are now expanding the scope of the market by offering space to potential sellers to cull their "Fabric Stashes. Anything can be sold at a cost of \$10 per site. As well, from the August market, they are moving to Sunday mornings from 8am to 1pm to allow more people the opportunity to see what is on offer. Bookings are available by phoning Desley (0497 356 355) or Sandi (0427 821 065). Free tea/coffee will be available to stall holders.



Marketeers selling out of their car boots

Look out for those cane trains

wilmar



Pastoral Care

Available at Home Hill parish office.

Father Manoj and/or Father Daniel will be available at St Colman's Parish office every Wednesday from 10 am to 12 pm. The office at the back of the church will be open for Home Hill parishioners to visit with Father Manoj and/or Father Daniel who can offer spiritual guidance, share prayers, hear confessions, or discuss concerns or to have a meal with members of the Home Hill Community from first week of July. Please feel free to drop in and share time with our parish priests. Let us rejoice in the Lord as this opportunity will bring us more life and blessings into our lives.

New Federal Member sworn in



THE new Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Willcox MP (pictured right) has been sworn in following the recent Opening of the 47th Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mr Willcox described it as "a proud moment for myself and my family", saying that as the eighth member for Dawson since the electorate was created in 1948, he wanted to assure his constituents that he will work for them to secure better roads, improved telecommunications and more infrastructure, including the construction of Urannah Dam. The swearing in of members followed the pomp and ceremony of the Procession to the Senate chamber for the Opening of the Parliament. Members then returned to the House of Representatives to take their oaths of office. Mr Willcox says he is looking forward to getting down to work on behalf of his electorate.

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 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—Fortnightly, on Mondays from 9.30am to 11.30am at St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Cnr Fourteenth Street and Tenth Avenue, Home Hill. \$7 per person. Light entertainment and fellowship. Morning Tea provided. Phone Esme 4782 1766.

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 three Saturday nights 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