

Positive start to 2022 Harvest Festival . . .

THE 2022 Home Hill Harvest Festival is off to a positive start with a successful launch of the annual Ephemera display in Lloyd Mann Park in mid-September and more to come throughout October and into the first week of November, as a varied program of events is ready to suit all tastes.

The Canefields Ephemera drew a good crowd to the opening of the event, as attendees took the opportunity to inspect the various exhibits set up throughout the park, ahead of the opening ceremony led by Festival President, Mark Vass and the Co-ordinator of the Ephemera, Uli Liessmann.

While Mr Vass expressed his gratitude to the major sponsors who were supporting this year's event and told of how the successful

Queen entrants each year were coming back to work on the Festival Committee, Mr Liessmann explained the meaning behind the variety of international flags that were prominent through the park.

He said the flags represented the countries that people came from up to 1950 – “the people who made Home Hill”.

Mr Liessmann said more flags would be added next year and if there was any person in the town who felt their country's flag was left out, he asked them to let him know.

Winning entrants in the 2022 Ephemera were—Overall Winner, Duncan Julyan (Picnic at Hanging Rock); Runner-up, Lou Jezard (Mushrooms); People's choice winner, Lisa Gianni (“Doing vs Being”).



Harvest Festival President, Mark Vass (left) with Ephemera sponsor, Erin Brennan of Brennan's Tyrepower, the overall winner, Duncan Julyan and Ephemera co-ordinator, Uli Liessmann.



Duncan Julyan's winning entry, “Picnic at Hanging Rock”

. . . And much more to come

WITH the official launch of the 2022 Home Hill Harvest Festival out of the way, along with the opening of the Ephemera entries and official judging, the Festival will now move on to a myriad of events in October, leading into the finale at the Grand Parade and Street Party early in November.

September's program also included a Sixtieth

Anniversary Harvest Festival Gala High Tea, with participants saying the event “went extremely well”, with praise extended to “organiser, Peta-Anne Broadhead and her crew, who did an amazing job of organising and running the event”.

THE Harvest Festival now moves into a busy

Continued on Page 3—

Positive changes for the business of news

NEW name, new owners and increased services . . . residents of the Home Hill region can expect much more from the former Home Hill Newsagency as positive changes are made to the business to take them into the future.

With declining numbers of newspapers available to the public through all newsagencies, operators have to look to new services and that is what is happening in Home Hill, starting with the handover of the business from former owners, Graham and Delphine Baker to their daughter and son-in-law, Shay and Ken Linton.

The family said that “over the next few weeks,



customers will see changes to Home Hill News, beginning with new owners - Ken and Shay Linton”.

After nearly 18 years (actually, one month short!), Graham and Delphine Baker will be turning off their early morning alarms in prep-

aration for retirement.

Then there will be a name change to *Home Hill News and Coffee*, with Ken and Shay “excited to bring Bear Bones Coffee to Home Hill”.

“The coffee bar will be opening in mid-October,” they announced. “Watch our social media pages for the date.”

The new owners said they were “excited to bring something new to the business and to Home Hill”.

“We are looking forward to this exciting business adventure.”

Full details of the changes at Home Hill News & Coffee will be in the pages of the November edition of *The Home Hill News*.

WHAT does the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce have to do to encourage its members, new and old, to attend the monthly networking meetings held at the Home Hill Community Sports Club? The Chamber has changed the format of their meetings this year, to create more interest amongst members, by leaving all business decisions and debates to their management committee and introducing guest speakers on a variety of subjects. The September meeting had two local speakers who detailed the work of their own organisations, Home Hill Rotary Club President, Roxanne Roberts who spoke of her ambitions with the club and of her working relationship with the students of the Home Hill High School. She was followed by Pastor Gavin Henderson, of the Burdekin Presbyterian Churches, who spoke of the history and ongoing work of the Meals on Wheels organisation in a changing world. They were two very interesting speakers—but the attendance did not reach double figures, including the speakers themselves. At most, the meetings take an hour and a half of members' time, but the interest is not there. Maybe the members could contact the chamber through their web site and provide their views on our initial query—what should be done to encourage their attendance? Do meeting times need to change? Although a number of different members could provide a time that suits them and they could all vary. The Chamber is working in the interests of the town and its community and the management committee is hopeful of more interest being shown in future meetings.

ANOTHER question that is being asked around the region is where have all our volunteers gone? Over many years, organisations throughout the district have benefitted from the combined efforts of numerous volunteers who have been the backbone of those organisations. However, volunteer numbers are dwindling and it is

The finer points of Home Hill . .

MOST people in our community drive past Lloyd Mann Park in Eighth Avenue on a regular basis each week—but how many have taken the time to stop off to inspect the various exhibits on display as part of the Harvest Festival's Canefields Ephemera. The display was opened



in mid-September and the range of ideas that have been brought out by the entrants of all ages are thought-provoking—Just like Lou Jezard's "Mushrooms" (above left) made from various palm fronds or "Recycling at its

Best" (left) which depicts old metal being fed through a mincer and the clean result coming out. And readers should not miss "The Honey Hive" exhibited by the Burdekin Art Society's children's classes with member Barb Shand. You may be sorry if you miss the opportunity in the time left.

not just in one area of interest that it is occurring. Workers from Blueys Thrift Shop are doing a marvellous job in Home Hill looking after the clothing needs of the local community and especially those who are not in a position to outlay large amounts on what they wear. However, they contacted us recently because they are in need of more volunteers to help customers during their opening hours. Then there are the local organisations who provide excellent service throughout the district—but attendances at meetings are becoming less in numbers, which in turn makes it harder to carry on their community efforts. The Chamber of Commerce will be one that will be in need of a secretary later this year, as their current officer prepares to leave town, while the Burdekin Race Club is looking to fill a similar position on their committee to relieve the increasing workload on their secretary/treasurer, who has been doing an outstanding job in both positions. Each position is not an easy task by itself in the racing industry, but to undertake both as proficiently as the current officer has is mind-boggling. However, the time has come to fill the positions individually and anyone in the community with any type of administration experience would be most welcome at any of the mentioned organisations. If you are able to offer your services as a volunteer or in a specific position, contact the clubs to obtain information about what is involved—you will be most welcome.

RESIDENTS throughout the local region will

not be short of entertainment over the coming month and into the pre-Christmas period as the Harvest Festival—celebrating its Sixtieth Anniversary—comes alive, while the Burdekin Race Club will host its annual Derby Day Races. The Harvest Festival has a committee of enthusiastic workers who are determined to once again provide a variety of features leading into and through the actual Festival Week, culminating in the Grand Parade and Street Party—with everyone catered for from the start of October until the early November finale. And look out for the newly-released book, which tells the story of those 60 years of festivities and the large numbers of local people who have been involved. The Burdekin Race Club built up its former Melbourne Cup Day celebrations, only to have the Townsville Club become the beneficiary of the local club's excellent lead-up work. They were handed Derby Day (October 29) instead and have since made a success of it as well—just ask the hundreds of women who look forward to being a part of the event each year. The Club has recently upgraded their track and added new running rails around its length, which will result in everything being up to top standard at future meetings. And the local meetings have been boosted with the allocation of another day of racing after another northern regional club found they were unable to race on December 3. The Festival and the Racing should whet the appetite of the local community for the many reasons to celebrate during the coming pre-Christmas period.

- DAVID JACKSON

Festival's Sixtieth Anniversary celebrations

Continued from Page 1—
 October Program, commencing with the Students' Ball to be conducted by the Home Hill High School at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday evening, October 7.
 The popular event attracts students from all High Schools throughout the district who find their way to the venue in varying forms of transport while dressed in all their finery, as they are judged during the evening to find the Belle and the Beau of the Ball.

The rivalry between the towns of Ayr and Home Hill comes to the fore on Saturday, October 8, as the Town of Origin sporting games are played on the Home Hill High School ovals in the fields of Cricket, Netball and Rugby League.
 Saturday, October 21 features the search for the Ironman winner, while on October 29, competitors will vie for the King and Queen of the Hill Title at Inkerman Hill.
 On the same afternoon, the Burdekin Race Club will be the centre of attention for Derby Day at the Home Hill Track, where there will be keen racing on the recently upgraded race track, with the



First Harvest Festival Personality Queen in 1963, Alison Milani (nee Adams)

feature event being the Justin Scott Memorial while hundreds of women will enjoy an afternoon of Derby Day fashions.
 Sunday, October 30 will highlight Thanksgiving Services at various local churches.
 Into November, the annual Pet Show will take place on Wat-

son's Green on November 2, leading into the Harvest Festival Finale weekend, featuring the annual Harvest Festival Ball and crowning of the Personality and Charity Queens.

Those titles will be handed over to the winners at the Ball on Friday evening, November 4 at the Burdekin Memorial Hall, with the winning Queen entrants then leading the Grand Parade down Eighth Avenue on Saturday, November 5.

The 2022 Harvest Festival will come to an end after the Mardi Gras to be held in and around Watsons Green in Ninth Street and Ninth Avenue, where a feast of food stalls will feed the large crowd, while artists will keep everyone entertained on stage amongst the many stalls and carnival attractions.



Pam Oar, Annette Kelly and Carol Smith



Blaise Heron and Heather Allen from the event sponsor, Ravenswood Gold.

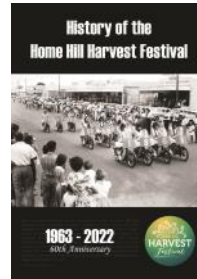
(All photos by Saskia Vollema-Creek)

New book launched with Festival anniversary

THE start of the Harvest Festival has coincided with the launch of a new book (cover picture right) detailing "The History of the Harvest Festival", which has been compiled by local resident, Saskia Vollema-Creek in time for the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Festival.

The 386-page book (\$70 per copy) is now on sale at the Home Hill News and at Burdekin Printers in Ayr .

Author Saskia Vollema-Creek described the book result as "an amazing two-year journey researching and interviewing people". She said



she was a great advocate for documenting the past for future generations, while she had developed an interest in local history and was very excited at how the book had turned out.

The History of the Harvest Festival contains 100 Queen stories and numerous photos from over the years of festivities

Ms Vollema-Creek offered her thanks to her proof readers, to people who contributed stories and photos/slides and to Nicole Kovacich and her mother, Robyne Greaves (nee Young) "for inspiring and supporting me throughout the journey".

Derby Day Racing in Home Hill



including the Justin Scott Memorial

sponsored by True North Interiors P/L

Saturday, October 29

Five local races plus southern races, TAB, local bookmakers, cafe and full bar facilities

Check the Burdekin Race Club's Facebook page for Derby Day details



Racing into the future . . .

Saturday, December 3, 2022 **EXTRA race day in Home Hill**

Saturday, February 18, 2023 **Racing in Home Hill**

Saturday, April 01, 2023 **Racing in Home Hill**

Saturday, May 20, 2023 **Burdekin Growers Race Day returns with racing, fashions and a feast of fun**

Inaugural Tennis Scholarship win for Home Hill player

A FORMER Home Hill student, who started his tennis playing days on the Home Hill Tennis Association courts has risen in the ranks of professional tennis players to the stage where he has been named as one of the first recipients of the Ashley Cooper Scholarship for 2022.

Adam Walton (23) started his tennis career at the ripe old age of five years and now has an impressive list of accolades to his name, having taken out the top spot at the recent World Tennis Tour Cancun 2022.

He has previously made the semi-finals of the Australian 18 and under Championships, reaching an ITF World Junior Ranking of number 60 and representing the University of Tennessee in college tennis as part of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

His dedication to the sport was apparent in the early years with

Adam winning the State School 10 to 12 Tennis Championship in 2011 as a 12-year-old.

He received a tennis scholarship to the Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie),

which saw him move to Brisbane for his year 10, 11 and 12 schooling and competed in the GPS tennis competition.

While in Brisbane, he was welcomed into the National Tennis Academy (under coaches Brent Larkham and Chris Mahony), which further demonstrated his dedication to his game, with Walton having to navigate his way across Brisbane's public transport network several nights a week for training.

However, it was Adam's grassroots beginning at Home Hill and



Adam Walton in action in a recent tennis tournament

dedicated progression that has led him to where he is today as a worthy recipient for the inaugural Ashley Cooper Scholarship.

Ashley Cooper played in the golden era of Australian men's tennis during which he won eight Grand Slam titles including the Australian, Wimbledon and US singles titles in 1958.

He was a right-handed, serve-and-volley player who was especially effective against left-handed opponents.

Throughout his life, Cooper was

honoured for the roles he played, receiving an Order of Australia and recognised in the International and Australian Tennis Halls of Fame and Queensland Sports Hall of Fame.

Home Hill Tennis Association representative, Kate Casswell said they were immensely proud of Adam Walton. "We were quite surprised to find a little kid with such great skill . . .

the older kids always knew they were in for a battle because of his never-give-up attitude," she said.

"Adam, his older brother, Jack and their parents travelled to numerous tournaments in Queensland for many years. He represented the Burdekin with pride, always displaying a great attitude on and off the court and in 2016, he received the Burdekin Shire Council Junior Sportsman Award."

The new scholarship has been established in honour of the late Ashley Cooper AO, whose strong legacy lives on in the sport today.

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Weeks 14 and 15 —ending September 24, 2022

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	138,423	1,897,338
Pioneer	86,479	840,683
Kalamia	68,063	830,231
Inkerman	77,468	917,308
Burdekin	370,433	4,485,560
CCS		
Invicta	15.02	14.15
Pioneer	15.12	14.07
Kalamia	14.24	13.46
Inkerman	14.49	13.53
Burdekin	14.79	13.88

Comments —

Week 14—Burdekin mills crushed just under 390,000 tonnes this week. Overall throughput was down due to an unplanned stop at Invicta Mill following a blackout early in the week and a planned mill clean. Inkerman Mill recorded its highest throughput for the season to date at 88,870 tonnes. Just over 4M tonnes or 50 per cent of the forecast 8.15M tonne Burdekin crop has been crushed to date. The average weekly CCS was 14.81, which is a sharp increase on the previous week, although still just below the original forecast. The highest CCS sample was 18.35 from a rake of Q183- P in the Mulgrave productivity district.

Week 15—The Burdekin mills crushed more than 370,000 tonnes for the week. While the throughput total was on budget, some factory issues prevented a stronger result. They included an unplanned stop at Invicta for boiler repairs and an extended clean at Inkerman. Pioneer Mill recorded its highest throughput of any week for the year. Just under 4.5M tonnes, or 55 per cent of the forecast 8.15M tonne Burdekin crop, has been crushed to date. The average weekly CCS was 14.79, which was slightly down on the previous week. The highest CCS sample of 17.4 was shared between a rake of Q240 2R in the Leichardt productivity area (Inkerman) and a rake of Q240-P in the Lower Clare productivity area (Invicta). With school holidays now under way, parents and carers are urged to remind children of the dangers associated with cane trains. Children should keep well away from the cane rail network and never play on or around cane bins.



wilmar

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

Burdekin electorate third in road deaths

COMMENTS in *The Home Hill News* in the September edition relevant to the “serious car accidents in our own area”, as well as throughout the state, being a growing concern to the state government and to emergency services because of the growing number of lives being lost, have been backed up by the LNP State Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last MP.

“To be ranked third in the state for deaths on our roads is not a title the Burdekin electorate deserves, or is proud of”, Mr Last said in a press statement.

“Sadly, the nine deaths recorded were between January and July and given recent tragedies in the electorate, that number is now far higher.”

Mr Last said that when justifying the state government’s increase in coal royalties, the Treasurer said that all of the money, and more, would be going to regional Queensland.

“If the number of deaths on the roads in the Burdekin electorate does not justify safety upgrades to our roads, then I don’t know what will,” he commented.

“The top five areas for road fatalities are all in regional Queensland and throughout regional Queensland, we have roads that are not up to

scratch.

“Regional Queenslanders don’t expect our roads to be paved in gold, but we also don’t want our roads awash with blood.”

The Member for Burdekin said the Labor state government was pulling up to an extra \$27.5B out of coal mines in regional Queensland, including in the Burdekin electorate.

“Just 10 per cent of that extra funding would strengthen and widen 1000km of road and, potentially, save lives.

“While the current government obsesses with projects in the south-east, regional Queensland gets treated as a cash cow and the carnage on our roads continues.”

Mr Last said the Burdekin electorate contributed billions each year to the Queensland government’s coffers but, as the RACQ confirmed, road conditions were appalling.

“Meanwhile, the state government sits on its hands while road safety projects sit abandoned following the contractor going broke.”



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Woodhead Shield first for Home Hill

THE Home Hill Rugby League Club signed tough halfback, Brian Beven as captain/coach in 1965 and in a tough season, Home Hill reached the club competition Grand Final, only to be defeated by Brothers.

Brian Beven was re-signed for the 1966 season and in another tough season, he steered Home Hill to a consecutive Burdekin A grade Grand Final berth against the Denis Smith-coached Hornets on Sunday, September 11, 1966.

The match opened with a number of fiery exchanges and referee Jack Horner issuing a number of cautions to both teams before Home Hill centre, Jeff Oats took a pass to score. Brian Beven converted the try and Home Hill led 5-0. Hornets rallied and strong play from Joe Vasta, Vern McIntosh and Ezio Craperi took play to the Home Hill 25 yard line where a penalty conversion by John Cole saw Home Hill lead 5-2.

Beven kept Home Hill on the attack and kicked a field goal to see Home Hill lead 7-2. The match boiled over and Joe Vasta and Joe McLean exchanged blows. The match took a turn when Home Hill's Chris Hilas and John Parravicini collided when attempting to tackle Allan Henaway. Chris Hilas was knocked unconscious and John Parravicini was also forced from the field.

Hornets rallied and after strong lead-up work from Phil Zumaran, Len Watson and Vern McIntosh, Joe Vasta barged over. Shortly afterwards Home Hill kicked another penalty and Home Hill led 9-5 at halftime.

Hornets started strongly after half time when John Cole made a break, stepping through the defence before passing to Allan Henaway, who looked set to score, only for a last-ditch tackle by Vern Daisy pulled him down. Play see-sawed until Beven

made a half break and found Ray Hastie in support, who raced down field and found Jeff Oats, who scored.

Beven converted the try and Home Hill led 14-7. Home Hill were in control and a big break by

Vern Daisy took play to close to Hornets try line. From the ruck, Beven found Peter Theofanes, who scored. Hornets scored late when a fumbled ball was picked up and Hornets were awarded the try. The final score saw Home Hill premiers, 17-10.

At the end of the match, the presentations followed with Home Hill the winners of a number of shields, including the inaugural George Woodhead Memorial Shield, named in honour of George Woodhead, a tough front row forward who had represented Townsville in the early 1960s.

In 1964, George suffered a number of injuries, which seemed to end his playing days. However in 1965, while working on the construction of the Ayr water tower, George was lured back to playing rugby league and was soon playing for Brothers in the 1965 Burdekin Rugby League club



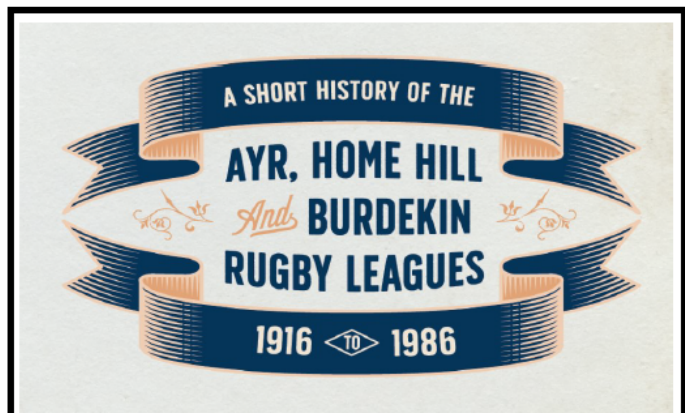
The 1966 Home Hill Senior Team (pictured before a club match in the 1966 season) comprised (from left, back) Phil (Sam) Oats, Vern Daisy, Joe McLean, Don Wallace, Mick Kerrisk, Graham Hayes; (middle) Rennie Piva, Ray Hastie, Peter Theofanes, Chris Hilas, Home Hill Graham Carnes, Norm Linthwaite; and (front) Jeff Oats, John Parravicini, Graham Porter and Graham (Butch) Christensen and (front, seated) Brian Beven (captain/coach).

competition. At the end of the 1965 season, George returned to Townsville. In early August, 1966, George fell from the steps of his home, damaging his spinal cord, which resulted in paralysis.

Tragically, he contracted pneumonia and passed away on August 7 in Townsville Hospital.

Burdekin Rugby League treasurer, Norm Dee and Brothers Club benefactor, Sol Morales donated a shield to be presented to the winner of the A Grade Burdekin Rugby League club competition Grand Final.

It was presented for the first time at the 1966 Grand Final and was then presented every year until the disbandment of the Burdekin Rugby League club competition at the end of the 1986 season.



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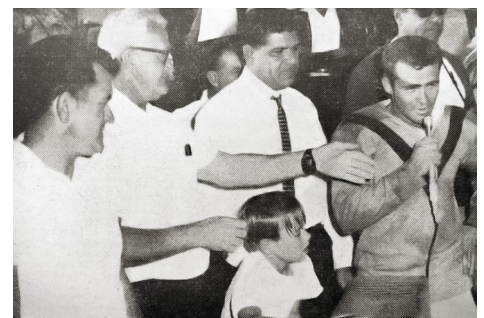
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The late George Woodhead



In an emotional speech, Brian Beven accepted the inaugural George Woodhead Memorial Shield from Burdekin Rugby League president, Frank Hansen and George's brother, Fred Woodhead, following Home Hill's win in the 1966 Grand Final. Home Hill Club delegate, Brian Carnes (left).

The Melbourne Cup, Home Hill style



WITH the Melbourne Cup fast approaching—always a huge attraction for many Australians—Burdekin Race Club President, Ricky Gudge (pictured) has taken a look back at the famous horse race for those who are not familiar with the history of the Aussie icon.

THE Melbourne Cup was first run in 1861, when it was won by Archer and coincidentally, the same horse won again the following year by still the largest margin of eight lengths.

It was always reported that the horse had walked from Terara (near Nowra) to Melbourne, however, that was incorrect, as he actually travelled on a steamship from Sydney to Melbourne as he also did the following year. The cup was run over two miles, but in 1972, with the introduction of the metric system, it was changed to 3200 metres, which is 19 metres shorter.

It is known as *the race that stops a nation* and is always run on the first Tuesday in November, and is also the richest 3200 metre handicap race in the world, with prize money and trophies in excess of \$8 million dollars.

There have only been four horses that have won the cup twice - as earlier noted, Archer in 1861 and 1862; Peter Pan in 1932 then again in 1934; Rain Lover in 1968 and 1969 and Think Big in 1974 and 1975. Just one horse has completed the treble - the mighty mare, Makybe Diva completing the incredible feat in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Home Hill joins in –

Home Hill began to conduct meetings on this iconic day in 1965.

A local businessman and SP bookmaker, Bill Rawnsley suggested to committee members that the club should race on Melbourne Cup Day, well knowing the danger the club was taking with the race day also being a working day, which was a big concern for the club.

The then *Home Hill Race Club* was criticised and laughed at by other racing fraternities for taking such a risk. However, they were not laughing for too long, when the huge success of the event was revealed.

A few years later, with the day going from strength-to-strength, other race clubs jumped on board, with one of these being the Townsville Club.

Earlier, it was not an issue as there was plenty of jockeys to conduct both meetings.

However, by the late nineties, jockey numbers had declined and after a conference between the two clubs, it was decided that the now Burdekin Race Club would race early, allowing for the jockeys to travel to Townsville, so they could conduct their meeting.

It was agreed that the Burdekin Club was to race late the following year – a classical example of why agreements should always be obtained in writing.

The then Townsville CEO went back on the deal - and, of course the Burdekin, being the smaller club, was told to race early again by Racing Queensland.

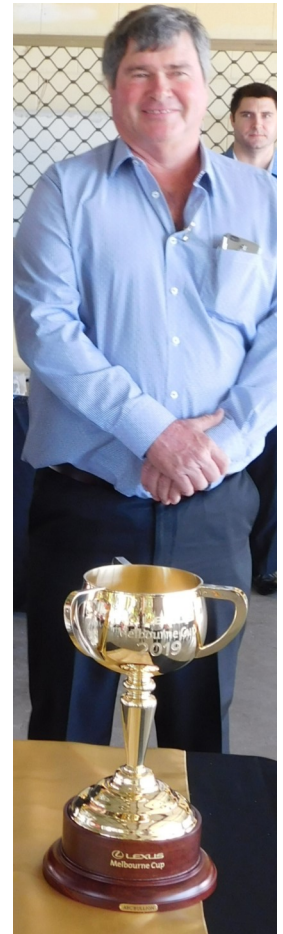
That would be the last time the Burdekin were allowed to race on Melbourne Cup Day. After introducing and conducting the concept for more than 30 years, it was taken off the club and given to Townsville - talk about a kick in the guts! At around the same time, Home Hill also lost its Melbourne Cup Day holiday – the only public holiday on the day outside Victoria.

Derby Day –


For the Cup Day loss, the Burdekin Club was given Derby Day. To say that was an equivalent day would be a gross over-statement, but through patience, hard work and valuable sponsors, the event has become the local race club's second biggest day of the year.

The introduction of the Ladies event was the icing on the cake, with tickets to the day having to be capped at more than 350 ladies attending in the past.

Derby Day – to be held on October 29 this year - will be another great spectacle and again, it will be the Justin Scott Derby Day, sponsored by Truenorth Equipment Hire.



Burdekin Race Club Past President and current Vice President, Torrie Davies, with the Melbourne Cup when it was brought to Home Hill in 2019.




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Locals caring for locals



Volunteers needed to join Bluey's Thrift Shop team

DO YOU have a couple of hours of your time on a regular basis to devote to assisting a local organisation that is committed to helping those in the community who may be down on their luck, or in need of an economic lift in today's busy lifestyle?

Bluey's Thrift Shop comes under the Uniting Church banner and is in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill where it provides an outlet for local residents to find suitable clothing or other daily items for their particular needs at a very reasonable cost, with proceeds from their sales being donated to local charities, including the Burdekin Community Association or the School Chaplains, both of whom are also devoted to assisting those in need in the local area.

And everyone who provides their services at Blueys, whenever they are available, are volunteers – no one is paid no matter how many

hours they devote to the Thrift Shop each week. However, to ensure that Bluey's can continue to maintain their usual valuable service to the local community, they have put out a call for more volunteers to put their hands up to assist whenever they have spare hours available. President for the past four years, Margaret Thorne said they had a number of people who volunteered in various ways.

"Dave McDonald is always available to do any work around the shop that is required," she said, "while there are people who volunteer their hours as part of the Federal Government's New Start Program." Mrs Thorne said they were able to raise their income from \$18,000 to \$21,000 per year during her term of office and they had donated a total of \$10,000 to the School Chaplains, the Burdekin Community Association and to the Brisbane



Bluey's Thrift Shop in Home Hill has put a call out for more volunteers like current assistants (from left) Past President Margaret Thorne, Elizabeth Foote and new Burdekin resident, Mae Anggit, who devote whatever hours they can to assisting customers at the Thrift Shop.

Flood Appeal. Blueys Thrift Shop is open to the public for four hours daily during week days, from 8.30am to 12.30pm and from 8am to 11am on Saturdays. "People volunteer whatever hours they can give," Mrs Thorne commented "and they do not have to be young, they can be of any

age." Mrs Thorne has relinquished her leadership role with Blueys to take on another position with the Uniting Church in the Burdekin District. Anyone who would like to offer their services as a volunteer at Blueys for any length of time should contact Margaret Thorne on 0459 365 424.

Another reminder . . . Remember to register for your email news!

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 each month from February 2023.

In readiness for the change, readers who currently look forward to their 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. Turn to the back page of this issue of *The Home Hill News* to find how easy it is to register your email address

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Bank stabilisation, a movie part and a family's fishing success

With JEANETTE GARVEY

BANK stabilisation works will commence this month at Mosquito Creek – much to the relief of Groper Creek residents, who have been waiting for the remediation works to be completed for almost three years. A freakish rainfall event in January, 2020 saw more than 500mm dumped in 24 hours, resulting in Mosquito Creek blowing out to triple its size and leaving valuable reserve land exposed. Held up in the beurocratic “red/green” tape whilst the State Government, State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) and Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust (BSRIT) all had to get on the same page, the process has been frustrating to say the least. SARA initially refused BSRIT's application for Operational Work for Prescribed Tidal Work at Groper Creek, because “the proposed rock revetment wall would not be protecting building and structures of value”. Groper Creek's 100 years of progress works were quickly pointed out, including the township; State Government jetty and boat ramps; electricity, phone and road infrastructure; popular caravan park; and the most important assets – its people. Lessons learnt from recent southern flooding events emphasised the need for prevention and preparation, so it will be comforting for locals to see the work completed ahead of predicted La Nina rainfall. The public is advised to please not enter the area while works are in progress.

SAILING off into the sunset with movie stars, Julia Roberts and George



Clooney is only what dreams are made of . . . If you keep your eyes peeled while watching the megastars' latest movie, *Ticket to Paradise*, you will catch a glimpse of the Cannavan family's Groper Creek-based vessel, *Ocean Karma*. After ignoring what he thought were a “few hoax calls”, Lee Cannavan said *Ocean Karma* was hired for the movie's filming in the nearby Whitsundays. “They actually provided us with the idea to extend the front deck, which works really well,” Lee said. “The crew provided their own skipper, so I didn't get called upon to act luckily – but, yes it was a great project to be involved in and a real brush with fame for our farm shed-built boat, *Ocean Karma*.”

PROVING age is no barrier when it comes to fishing, young angler, Cody, who turned six-years-old in July, caught his biggest ever fish while holidaying with his family at Groper



Jetty Jottings

Creek recently. Fishing from his family's waterfront camp and using the new fishing bait-caster rod he received for his birthday baited with live prawn, Cody landed a 59cm Fingermark all by himself, beating his previous 58cm Pink Snapper caught at

Woody Head in New South Wales. The family left home in Exmouth, Western Australia at the end of term three in 2021 for a 16-month lap of Australia, to “Roam in Rusty”, their 1975 Viscount Ambassador caravan. Mum Jane said daughter Zara (2) claims she doesn't like fishing but “she doesn't have any choice, luckily for me she does fall asleep in the tinny, which gets mounted on the roof of our car for travelling. We only go to coastal towns that have a boat ramp very close to the camp site, hence why Groper Creek was on the list of places to come to. Brad heard about it from a fellow camper at Brooms



Head.” To cap their trip to Groper Creek off, fellow campers applauded as the family combined to land a 63cm Barramundi via their favourite lure. It was a real family effort and a memorable land, being their first Barramundi of the whole trip (and first ever barra for Jane, Cody and Zara). The family will be back!

ANGLERS have just this month to land a Barramundi with the season closing at midnight on October 31 and not re-opening again until February 1, 2023. Grey nomads, who have fished the Burdekin River and Groper Creek estuaries for decades, claimed the 2022 season was one of the better ones to date. A reminder that anyone caught with Barramundi during the three-month closed season could face an on-the-spot \$522 fine or more hefty court penalties of up to \$130,000.

Dawson remembers Queen Elizabeth II

THE Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Willcox represented his Dawson electorate at several services during September, following the sad passing of Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, including a Gun Salute and the Proclamation of King Charles III by the Governor-General David Hurley. Mr Willcox said it had been an honour to represent the people of Dawson in paying tribute to her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

"Her Majesty was a frequent visitor of regional Australia and many Dawson residents can remember when she visited Mackay first in 1954, just months after she was crowned and again in 1970," he said.

"During our most trying times, Her

Majesty provided many messages of support and strength. These efforts showed her true kindness, humanity and leadership, which Her Majesty brought to the role and is one that will be sorely missed," Mr Willcox said.

Following the 'National Day of Mourning for Her Majesty on September 22, Federal Parliament was due to sit in Canberra, but that sitting was suspended following her death, the government rescheduled the sitting days following the period of mourning.

Mr Willcox has a condolence book in his office for anyone who wishes to provide a handwritten message or, alternatively, they can go on online to www.pmc.gov.au/her-majesty-the-queen.



Parliament Update

I WOULD like to start by sending my condolences to the Royal Family and paying my respect to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in recognition of her extraordinary contribution and life.

Parliament sittings will officially resume on October 11 and I am looking forward to again being your voice on the floor of Parliament and prosecuting those issues that matter to us in the north of the state.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have spent time travelling around the electorate visiting our schools and hospitals that do a fantastic job educating our children and providing essential health care.

Action on road safety starts with safe roads

DURING the earlier September sitting of Parliament, Transport Legislation amendments were debated and as the Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Queensland and the Shadow Minister for Police, I spoke about the impact of sub-standard roads and a sobering statistic that would send shivers up the spine of every Queensland.

Already this year, 75 per cent of road fatalities have occurred in rural and regional Queensland. While driver behaviour plays a significant role, it is up to the state government to ensure the roads that we drive on are actually safe.

South of Home Hill is a 30km section of road works on the Bruce Highway that has sat dormant for seven months, because this state government failed to do its due diligence with contractors.

Seven months of inaction on a 30-kilometre section of the Bruce Highway is not good enough and I have ramped up the pressure on the Government to secure a contractor to complete this project.

If we are going to get serious about addressing the road toll in Queensland, our roads need to be up to scratch. Unfortunately, at the present time in many parts of Queensland, that is not the case.

Plenty of grant opportunities around

WITH plenty of grant opportunities continuing to be unveiled this year, it's a timely reminder that if your community group or sporting club needs a letter of support or a referee, contact my office and find out how I can assist.

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Uli Liessmann comments . .

WHAT a great start to the Home Hill Harvest Festival's many functions, following the opening of the 2022 Ephemera held on Sunday, September 11.

A lot of work has gone into the preparations to make this a successful event and I don't think anyone was disappointed.

Three very happy winners walked away with their prizes in the competition. Congratulations to you all, as I know a lot of work has gone into creating your art works. However, the biggest prize went to the public and the many visitors who attended the opening. I have noticed over the weeks that many people, both local and the travelling public, have stopped to have a look at the ten art installations. The conclusion is that people want to look and be entertained and this is where a Gallery/Museum would help and be a drawcard for the tourist in Home Hill.

WHAT is also needed is a unisex toilet in this park (Lloyd Mann Gardens) for the many people who stop there through the year for a rest, I believe Council should allow for this project in its next budget—it should be a priority.

WHILE on the subject of Lloyd Mann Gardens - This is one of the better parks in the Shire, if not the best, thanks to the council staff that look after it. Well done also for getting the chairs there for the Ephemera opening at such short notice.

MY entry (pictured right), "We Are One" - the parade of national flags— drew a fair number of comments. Should you want to include your ethnic flag or national flag to be displayed/flown at next year's Ephemera, please get in touch. Over the years we hope to fill the park with as many flags as possible to make a great colourful impact.



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

ON another note, I must mention "The Bee Hive" - what a great exhibit and congratulation to the kids and the ladies from the Burdekin Art Society for a great display! Sadly, they did not win, but they took part. Their installation was only one point behind in the Public Choice . . . well done and it is hoped we will see you next year.

A BIT of sad/bad news from the Home Hill Swimming Pool and Caravan Park, as the current lessee has given notice that as of April 30, 2023, they will no longer be the caretakers. I know a lot of people will miss them, as they done a great job looking after the pool. Thanks Lloyd and Lisa and all the best in your next venture.

THE best story of the week is that Home Hill News in Eighth Avenue is going to incorporate a sit down coffee shop within their current business, open seven days. Finally, the town is getting a designated coffee shop. Good on ya! - 10 out of 10.

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

- ULI LIESSMANN

Nowhere to go when stuck behind this massive highway hold-up!



THIS massive machine created quite a hold-up on the Bruce Highway as it moved through Home Hill on its way south. Our photo was taken in Eighth Avenue, where local drivers knew how to get around it—but other travellers were stuck with nowhere to go. And the big question, How did they ever get it through the Burdekin Bridge?



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.

How to sign up for Home Hill News—

1. Using your browser go to the Chamber's website at: <https://homehillchamber.com.au/>
2. Click on the "Register for Home Hill News" button;
3. Then you will see a section to fill out your details;
4. Enter your Email Address, First Name and Last Name then click on SUBSCRIBE
5. You may need to allow a pop-up to be displayed
6. You may need to Tick I'm not a robot and click SUBSCRIBE again
7. Then you will see a section with "Subscription confirmed";
8. Click Continue to our Website to return to the Chamber's website.
9. We will send you a notification when the next Home Hill News is published.

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