

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 85, December, 2022 (First published April, 2015)

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**Season's Greetings to all our readers**

from the

**Home Hill Chamber of Commerce President,  
Management Committee and Members**



The site of the proposed Service Station development at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Sixth Street, Home Hill

## School project hopes for 2023

A PROJECT worth more than half a million dollars could be in use by mid-2023 for agricultural students at the Home Hill High School following a question on notice in State Parliament by Member for Burdekin, Dale Last.

The response to the question, on when a new greenhouse and agricultural shed would be constructed and available to use, provided the long-awaited answers for the High School community and particularly students studying agricultural science.

"When concerns were raised that the project could drag out, I took the opportunity to raise those concerns with the Minister immediately, so it is great to hear construction will begin in the new year, with students able to utilise the new infrastructure from the second half of the year," Mr Last said. "There is a lot of hard work that goes into bringing projects like these to fruition, particularly in rural and regional schools, where advocacy and community partnerships are even more important in ensuring our youths have access to the same opportunities as those growing up in the south-east."

Mr Last said at a time when emphasis is placed on STEM, programs that reflect the major industries in Home Hill were vital to ensuring those students who want to work in the agricultural industry are given the best opportunities to apply those classroom skills to a real world environment.

"Being able to go to school and learn, hands-on, about the technology our farmers are currently able to utilise plays a big role in ensuring those students who want to pursue a career in our agricultural industry have the best start," he said. "It could be the difference between a student thinking about getting involved in the local agricultural industry after school and actually fostering a pathway into the industry. For students who already are experiencing life on the farm, it has the ability to show them how the science they are learning in the classroom can apply to the agricultural industry."

## New Service Station plans for CBD

A NEW service station could be built in the Home Hill Central Business District, subject to approvals from the Burdekin Shire Council for plans that have been submitted by a Planning Firm.

The plans have publicly advised of planning approval being sought for the project planned for the corner of Eighth Avenue and Sixth Street (39-49 Eighth Avenue).

The site is where the former Home Hill Co-Operative Traders once operated for many decades, followed by Rodeda's Fashions 'N Fabrics,



The notice that was displayed on the site of the development advising of the plans for the new Service Station in Home Hill's central business district.

who took over part of the Home Hill Co-Op and then My Pets.

The project, if it goes ahead, will be a welcome addition to the Central Business District, both for its aesthetic value and because it will add another business to the town centre.

At the present time, Home Hill has only one service station (BP Home Hill) following the closure of the former United Service Station near the town's southern entrance, while there is another United facility on the northern approaches to the Burdekin Bridge.

DECEMBER is usually a very busy month for residents of the Burdekin District, with Christmas looming, along with school holidays and families preparing for long-needed holidays. However, this year seems to be even busier for our town residents, with some major events in the planning in between the family celebrations. From the start of the month, there is the return of the Burdekin Craft Fair on Saturday, December 3—an event that proved extremely popular from the first time it was held in the town until Covid 19 reared its ugly head. With the large number of people in this district who are involved in numerous artistic activities, there is no doubt that the Fair will be just as popular this year. On the same day, the Burdekin Race Club will again host a race meeting in what has been a busy month, as they have taken on dates that other northern regional clubs were unable to make use of.

And that is after extensive work has been carried out on improvements to the track and replacement of the running rail. A very pleasant day can be enjoyed by attendees at the Craft Fair, who then go on to enjoy the sport of kings. The Home Hill Choral Society has two days of the second weekend of the month (Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10) set aside for their "Holiday Hi-Jinks" program—and anyone who has not had the opportunity to enjoy a production by their members should take this opportunity to book a place among the audience now. Home Hill is also the venue for the Burdekin Shire's Christmas Carols this year, as they alternate between Ayr and Home Hill. The Home Hill High School venue was popular with those who enjoyed the family night out last time it was held here and what better way to lead into the Spirit of Christmas when it takes place on Sunday night, December 11.

HOME Hill Chamber of Commerce meetings went from bad to worse in November, with only six attendees at

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

IT IS pleasing to see that there are some early starters in the Christmas decoration stakes in Home Hill, as homes are provided with the Christmas spirit and large amounts of lighting in various forms and colours. The Chamber of Commerce will once again be sending the judges around later in December for find the best individual home and the best neighbourhood group (six homes or more on one or both sides of the street in the one block) and it is to be hoped that the effort of past years is surpassed with more home decorations and lighting displays. It does not take much to add the festive spirit to a residential property and that is evident from those who were setting up their displays before the end of Novem-



ber—just a strand or lighting or a "Merry Christmas" sign can help to get the message across. The judges drive around all parts of the town—just make sure you have your lights on when they

appear around the town's streets. The Council has done its bit again with the large Christmas tree set up in the central business district (pictured) and we hope our businesses will also make their own contribution with window decorations and more lighting. It all helps to make the town look more positive in the lead-up to the Christmas holiday period. *The Home Hill News* extends the Season's Greetings to all our readers for a Happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous 2023 ahead for everyone.

the monthly networking meeting. Despite all efforts by the Chamber's management committee to try to encourage more members to show an interest, the numbers dropped to their worst total for a long time - so much so that the members present virtually agreed that there would be no meeting in December. A final decision will be made at the next committee meeting, but there does not seem to be much point in going ahead at what is the busiest time of the year. The November meeting ended up being a discussion group with those present having a profitable meeting with one of the planned speakers, Council officer, Tony Blackwell, on the complementary work of the council and the Role and Activities of the Community Services Department, of which he is the manager and the services provided to the local community. It is to be hoped there is a more interest whenever the next meeting is planned.

OUR comments in our November edition with regard to the Council applying "the same decision making to other events, with their normal policy being for the majority of events to be held on the north side of the river" has brought a novel and pleasing result—"pleasing" because we received a response from one of our Burdekin Shire Councillors on our thoughts. We referred to the fact that the Council held a Clean-up at Lynch's Beach at Alva and a Sen-

iors Expo and Luncheon, also in Ayr and suggested that "maybe next year, they could even consider hosting the event in Home Hill where the facilities are just as good". We often stand on our councillors' corners at times with our comments in standing up for the fact that Home Hill does exist and there can be no harm in holding events on this side of the river—and in what could be a "first", Cr John Furnell has responded with his own query . . ."Besides the two events highlighted, ie Barrier Reef Clean-Up and Seniors Expo & Luncheon and in the interests of promoting the Burdekin Shire, are there any other events not mentioned?" We do not have enough space in this issue to start making a list, but we could point out initially that any references to preparations for our cyclone season should be held on this side of the river as well, because in most cases with heavy rain and flooding, it is Home Hill that is most affected. We pointed out to Cr Furnell that Home Hill's central business district could do with a hit of the small party lighting like that displayed in part of Ayr's CBD, but the last time it was tried in Eighth Avenue, the birds ate the connections. The birds in Ayr must not be as hungry. It was pleasing to receive Cr Furnell's email response and we would hope that it brings responses from other councillors—whether they agree with our thoughts or not. DAVID JACKSON



# Home Hill's award-winning Tennis Association

SUCCESS has continued to come the way of the Home Hill Tennis Association with the presentation of awards to the local organisation and its secretary, Kate Casswell at the 2022 Queensland Tennis Awards ceremony held on Wednesday, October 26 at Queensland's Parliament House. The Association was represented at the Brisbane ceremony by their treasurer, Brad McAllister and secretary, Kate Casswell, who both were recognised for their contribution to the sport locally and state-wide. It was only two months ago that we reported on the success of another former local player, Adam Walton, who commenced his playing career in Home Hill and after rising to the ranks of the professional tennis players, was named as one of the first recipients of the Ashley Cooper Scholarship for 2022.

Adam now has a world singles ranking of 431 and has reached number 20 in Australia.

Mrs Casswell said the Home Hill Club had been nominated as the Best Rural Club in Queensland, probably because of their

work with their "Rally for a Cure" project, which drew 16 teams and a large crowd of supporters to the Home Hill Tennis Complex in August to raise funds towards finding a cure for brain cancer; for their Sugar Bowl Tournament, which had continuing success over several decades and for their on-line presence.

The award was accepted by Kate Casswell and Brad McAllister on behalf of the organisation from the LNP State Member for Scenic Rim, Jon Krause.

Kate Casswell said people were nominated for the Volunteer of the Year rural awards and were then required to submit information supporting the nomination. However, she had decided not to send the information because she did the work for the Home Hill Tennis Association because it was "great for our community, it helped to improve their facilities in the town and it brings a lot of business into the Burdekin". She explained that the Sugar Bowl Tennis attracted 320 players for the tournament, while many others just come for a day over the weekend. "It helps to maintain our facilities," she said as she point-

ed out that someone else had submitted her application five days later and she was joined by her friend, former beach volleyball Olympic Gold Medalist, Natalie Cook for the presentation.

"I don't do it for the recognition," she commented, as she revealed that she had won the same award in 2014.

Kate Casswell returned to Brisbane on November 24 because she had subsequently been nominated for the Queensland Sports Awards.



Olympic gold medallist, Natalie Cook with Kate Casswell after the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award.



LNP Member for Scenic Rim in State Parliament, Jon Krause (left) presented the club award to Home Hill Tennis Association officers, Treasurer Brad McAllister and Secretary Kate Casswell.

## ANOTHER EXTRA DAY OF RACING

### on the Home Hill Track Saturday, December 3

Five local races during the afternoon plus southern races, TAB in operation as well as local bookmakers and a café offering a range of tasty food options

## Racing into the future . . .

**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**





The Home Hill Rotary Club won the award for the Best Queen Float



The Home Hill Tennis Association Queen entrant, Stacey Dorman had the best view of the procession from her umpire's chair, as the parade was viewed by the crowd in both directions. The float was judged the "Best Themed Float".

# Festival fun continues to the finale

THE Home Hill Harvest Festival has continued its run of successful events as the 2022 festivities came to a conclusion on Saturday, November 5 with a colourful parade that led into a night of fun, food and entertainment at Mardi Gras activities in and around Watson's Green. The Festival Ball on Friday night, November 4 drew a good crowd to see the culmination of the Queen competition, which resulted in a double success for the Burdekin Netball Association as their sponsored entrant, Alix Leckenby was awarded both the personality and charity queen titles.

That led into the finale at the colourful Parade and Mardi Gras, with a wide variety of floats and marching units thrilling the large crowd as they moved down Eighth Avenue from Fourteenth Street to Sixth Street and back to Tenth Street, where they dispersed allowing the crowd to fill the area in front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall for the Mardi Gras activities. President Mark Vass said the committee was very happy with the result of the festival with a huge crowd present at the Mardi Gras. He said they made a few changes to the layout of the area, "just tweaked it a bit", mainly with



Burdekin Netball Association Queen entrant, Alix Leckenby, who won both the Personality and Charity Titles. Photo by Saskia Vollema-Creek

the food stalls, not big changes, but it allowed the crowd to move more freely. The results of the judging of the floats in the Harvest Festival Parade were - Best Queen Float – Home Hill Rotary Club; Best Float other than a Queen – Osborne State School; Best Trade Float – Burdekin Craft Spectacular; Humorous Float - Home Hill State School; Best Individual Float - Hilda Frew (Cane Strippers from the '60's); Best Theme Float – The Home Hill Tennis Association.

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## Burdekin Region Mills

Weeks 23 and 24 —ending November 26, 2022

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	81,307	2,973,072
Pioneer	69,736	1,451,567
Kalamia	58,540	1,349,892
Inkerman	53,023	1,471,349
Burdekin	262,606	7,245,880
<b>CCS</b>		
Invicta	12.39	14.18
Pioneer	13.28	14.25
Kalamia	12.01	13.47
Inkerman	12.26	13.67
Burdekin	12.52	13.96

### Comments —

**Week 23**—The Burdekin Mills crushed just over 345,000 tonnes of cane for the week. No rainfall was recorded, however throughput was down due to scheduled cleans, unplanned stops and reduced crushing rates due to high dirt levels and low-purity cane. Just over 85 per cent of the forecast 8.15M tonne Burdekin crop has been crushed to date. The average weekly CCS was 13.23, with the season-to-date CCS now sitting on 14.01 units. The highest CCS sample of 17.3 was from a rake of Q240-4R in the Jardine productivity district.

**WEEK 24**—The Burdekin mills crushed over 262,000 tonnes of cane for the week, bringing the season total to just over 7.2M tonnes. Thunderstorms across the region earlier in the week caused disruptions to harvesting and crushing operations. After restarting, the factories experienced processing problems due to high dirt levels in cane supply. The average weekly CCS was 12.52, with the season-to-date CCS now sitting on 13.96 units. CCS levels have dropped considerably since the onset of the recent wet weather events. The highest CCS sample of 16.2 was from a rake of Q240-3R in the Barratta productivity district. With the crushing season extending into the school holidays, we ask parents and caregivers to talk to children about the dangers of playing on or around our cane rail network. Our cane trains are in operation around the clock, seven days a week during the crushing season.

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



## New Year crushing predicted

WET weather disruptions earlier this year has resulted in Wilmar Sugar making preparations to continue the crushing season past Christmas and into the New Year.

General Manager Cane Supply and Grower Relations, Paul Giordani said rain had continued to disrupt the 2022 crushing season and they were now preparing to crush past Christmas.

“We have been consulting with grower collectives about extended season finish dates and are working with growers, harvesting contractors and our employees on plans to crush into early January,” he announced. “Our eight mills have now processed a total of 12.45M tonnes of cane, which represents 76 per cent of the forecast 16.28M tonne crop.

“With world sugar prices currently above \$600 a tonne, we remain focused on working with growers and harvesting contractors to get the whole crop off.”

In the Burdekin, Mr Giordani said wet weather had significantly disrupted harvesting over the past month and had created additional processing challenges from stale burnt cane and in cane with high dirt levels. “With improved ground conditions and cleaner cane supply, crush rates have now returned to budgeted levels,” he said.

“We are continuing to transfer cane to Invicta Mill from the other Burdekin mills. Based on projected throughputs and additional time built in for wet weather, Mr Giordani said they expected the last Burdekin mill to finish the season in the first week of January.

## Home Hill Community Sports Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at the Club building, cnr Ninth Avenue and Tenth Street  
**On Thursday, December 15, 2022 commencing at 12 Midday**

T.J. Elton, President

### St Colman's Church

62 Tenth St, Home Hill QLD 4806

### Christmas Events

**Blessing of the Tree**—Sunday 11th December, 7am

**Confession**—Thursday 22nd of December, 6pm

**Christmas Eve Mass**—24th December:

6.30pm—Carols

7pm—Mass

**Christmas Day Mass**—25th December, 7am



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## 752 pages of Rugby League history

THE launch of a new book detailing a “short history” of the Ayr, Home Hill and Burdekin Rugby Leagues from 1916 to 1986 attracted a considerable amount of interest when the book was revealed in the Burdekin for the first time in November.

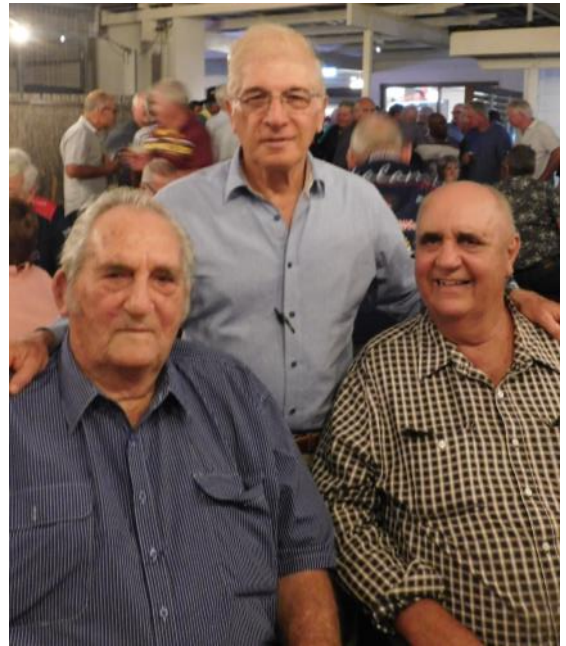
In fact, the popularity of rugby league in the Burdekin was more than evident with the number of people who attended the function at the Kalamia Hotel in Ayr, after the author, Martin Grandelis had promoted the book in *The Home Hill News* and other outlets in the months before the event.

The book, which was well received by those present as sales continued throughout the evening (with associated signing by the author), certainly went past the “short history” stage, as the final tally of pages reached 752—revealing a feast of stories and photos from that past era of the sport in the Burdekin.

In an address to the crowd, Mr Grandelis described the history of rugby league in the Burdekin district as a “fascinating and, at

times, turbulent story”.

He detailed the history of the sport in the area from the formation of the Ayr league after a break from the Lower Burdekin Rugby Football Union with matches in Ayr from 1916 against Natives, Rain-



Author Martin Grandelis (back) with two of the former Home Hill rugby league players, Andy Pegoraro (left) and Ian (Tex) Mann, who were both mentioned in the book's pages

bows, Hornets and Ramblers teams, while the Home Hill League was formed shortly after with four teams eventually playing, Zambuks, Cities, Osborne and Iyah.

From that point, the book details the progress of the game on an annual basis through to 1986, their progress and successes or otherwise as they played each other and also competed against other leagues throughout the north.

The book also contains large numbers of photos that the author was able to obtain through rugby league contacts including many from the “Thomas Ralph Jackson Collection”, which had been used in the former *Home Hill Observer* over the years of its existence.

Mr Grandellis expressed his appreciation for the support he had received from numerous people throughout the north in producing the book.

The launch of the book also provided a unique opportunity for many men who had played rugby league in the Burdekin district to get together and reminisce about their years in the sport in the district.

The book launch brought back many former residents who used the opportunity to renew acquaintances with former team mates.

The book is now available from the Home Hill News & Coffee locally, as well as through other outlets in the Burdekin district and throughout other northern areas of the state.

Crushing time is on again

# Use your train brain

- Stay alert
- Obey the signs
- Always give way to cane trains



# Progress continues on water pipeline to Bowen

THE proposed Bowen Water Pipeline, which will carry water from the Burdekin River through to Bowen and to farming properties in between, continues to advance, with a meeting held in Home Hill in November to provide updated information to local residents on progress including the changed route, which has taken the first pump station 16 kilometres up river and notifying residents that the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) on 28 October 2022, approved the Project to proceed to Phase 2 of the Grant funding, to produce a detailed business case.

The Round 1 Water Demand Assessment and other reporting enabled the Bowen Pipeline Company (BPC) to validate the project's pre-feasibility to Government.

The Phase 1 project investigations confirmed – The regional need for the additional water to unlock economic potential and build resilience; the strong water demand within the region (risk adjusted based on feedback from 51 participants) 60,000ML (240 days), 80,000 ML (365 days); a viable engineering design at an affordable cost; and durable economic benefits for the region.

Phase two of the project involves the



The new route for the proposed Bowen water pipeline, which meets the original route near the Whitsunday Regional Council boundary at Wangaratta Creek between Home Hill and Bowen.

completion of a Class 2 preliminary engineering design and obtaining environmental and planning approvals with the Commonwealth and State.

The Round 2 Water Demand Assessment process (non-binding) started on November 22, 2022, with locations for presentations including Bowen and Gumlu, as well as Home Hill.

The estimated cost of construction is \$400 million for a trunk length of some 120 km and over \$100 million will be spent in the

Burdekin Shire. The Project will allow the creation of some 3000 full time equivalent jobs (KPMG report).

The map (on this page) shows the Updated Concept Alignment Map, starting at Barry Road and heading south-east (landholder negotiations are underway and the alignment may change).

The project construction start date target remains at September 2024.

The Office of the Co-ordinator-General (OCG) has advised that BPC were to notify the Whitsunday Regional Council and the Burdekin Shire Council of the Project and request letters of in-principal support before they lodged their application with the OCG.

Whitsunday Regional Council immediately provided the "letter of in-principal support for the Project" dated October 5, 2022. Mr Brown said that "As to where we are at with the Burdekin Shire Council, we are in discussions clarifying the current status of the

project and the process for approvals and look forward to updating the Shire early in the new year".

## New Chairman

The Bowen Pipeline Company has a new Chairman of the Steering Committee, Mike Hollett, who was previously the Chair and a Director of the Western Australia Water Corporation.

Mr Hollett has had a diversified career, which spans different sectors consistently having a strategic and operational role in the water industry across both the public and the private sectors.

A letter from the Minister for Water in Western Australia in late 2019 recommended his nomination to the Advisory Panel of the National Water Grid Authority, which provided BPC with the Commonwealth Grant and potentially 50 per cent of the construction and water allocation costs.



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# Lions medical information book saving lives

THE Home Hill Lions Club is offering Home Hill residents the opportunity to obtain an Emergency Medical Information Book, which provides the opportunity, if you are involved in an emergency, to feel at ease that your medical records will be with you and able to be handed to a paramedic or medical personnel.

More than 1.4 million of the Emergency Medical Information Books (EMB) have been distributed throughout Australia by Service Clubs, with the support of a variety of organisations.

The EMB has reportedly saved many lives and it is known that many people have purchased another book so they can carry the

second copy with them, especially when travelling.


The book comes in a plastic cover, with magnetic strips on the back, allowing it to be attached to the fridge at home, where attending paramedics can determine what drugs can be administered to assist a patient.

That precious time gained can often have a very dramatic outcome in situations where it has saved lives.

The Emergency medical information booklet is available from members of the Home Hill Lions Club and is available for a gold coin donation, which makes it a self-funded project for the service club.


An EMB pocket edition has been designed to fit in a

A community service project from your Rotary and Lions Clubs and Ambulance Service



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## Emergency Medical Information Book.




Lions Club of Home Hill District 201Q2

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Book started / /

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The Lions Emergency Medical Information Book, which is available through members of the Home Hill Lions Club

standard wallet or pocket, so that they may be carried in it with whoever it refers to at all times.

Information in a pocket edition does not replace your own Emergency Medical

Information Book, but is a prompt for contact details, medications and medical conditions.

Contact the Home Hill Lions Club to find out how you can obtain your EMB.

## News changes from this edition

HAVE you ensured you will be getting your copy of *The Home Hill News* each month by registering your email address with the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce?

From this issue, the changes announced several months ago have come into effect—you either received it by email or paid \$2 for a hard copy.

The number of printed copies have been reduced and depending on results from sales of this edition, further reductions could take place.

As a result, readers are again urged to ensure they have registered to receive their copy by email.

The November issue signalled what was ahead in a changed masthead that indicated the new pricing. That was only a warning of the changes to come..

It did mean though, that anyone who had the facilities to receive a FREE emailed copy of *The Home Hill News* every month (except January), should move immediately to register with the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce website.

Some readers have done that already, but there are obviously many who have not done so – and all that is needed is to follow the directions that have been available in the pages of the newsletter in recent months.

*The Home Hill News* is now available at the new price from Home Hill News & Coffee and from Liessmann & Sons Hardware in Home Hill, as well as at outlets in Ayr at Woods News and at Farry's Lotto Agency.

However, there will only be limited printed copies available so make sure you have registered..

Many thanks to all who were able to attend the launch of the

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE AYR, HOME HILL & BURDEKIN RUGBY LEAGUES 1916 – 1986



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The book is a history of club and representative competitions, including Club Grand Finals from the inception of rugby league in the Burdekin until the end of the club competition in 1986. It contains personal stories from players, officials, coaches and referees. Over 400 team photos and 760 pages of info



# Day of doubles at extra November race meeting

THE crowd may have been smaller than normal, but those present enjoyed an excellent day of racing on the Home Hill track on Saturday, November 12 as the Burdekin Race Club conducted a five-event meeting on a date forfeited by the Herbert River Jockey Club.

Home Hill trainer and Burdekin Club President, Ricky Gudge was successful with two of his three runners on the day, winning the first and last events for many of his local owners, while young apprentice jockey, Isabella Teh started the day well, leading the way to the winning post in the first two races, while also beaten by a length into second on Forgiato in the last race over 1460 metres.

Ms Teh won the first event over 1180 metres on Lumerai and followed up in race two over the same distance on Norwegian Wood.

The Burdekin Club took over the race date when the Ingham Club was unable to use its date and Home Hill will be the venue for another extra meeting on December 3, when the local club hosts a five-event

meeting on a date that the Charters Towers Club has been unable to use.

The Ricky Gudge-trained Lumerai was successful for three local owners, Mrs Leanne Gudge, Mrs Helen Scott and Mrs Bhree Caspanello in the first race of the day, the Maiden Plate, winning by a length from Gulf of Aqaba (Scott Sheargold) with On Your Skates (Pietro Romeo) in third place.

The Club President was unsuccessful with Rebel Lake in the fourth event, but his locally trained Keighley Sun (Nathan Day) led the way for its large group of mainly local owners in the final event, the Benchmark 60 Handicap over 1460 metres.

Rebel Lake did not start well, trailing from the start but came around the field on the home turn to score by a length over Forgiato (L. Teh)

with Stronach (Bonnie Thompson) in third place. Racing will return on Saturday, December 3 when another five-event program is to be held.

The Club has received some excellent reviews at its most recent meetings following improvements made to the track with a new running rail installed and the surface of the track upgraded to a first class standard.



Lumerai (Isabella Teh) wins the first event from Gulf of Aqaba and On Your Skates third



The large group of owners with Keighley Sun after the Ricky Gudge trained horse won the last event in Home Hill at the November meeting



Locally owned Keighley Sun (Nathan Day) came from last to defeat Forgiato (Isabella Teh)




Lumerai owners, Leanne Gudge (left) and Helen Scott (absent was Bhree Caspanello) with strapper Mark Cheetham after the win in the first race

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# Texas Longhorns on a Burdekin property

A LOCAL grazer, who prefers to remain anonymous, has the makings of a new industry for the Burdekin district, as he manages a small herd for a family member, which includes four full-breed “longhorn” cattle.

The “Texas Longhorns” create a lot of interest wherever they are produced because of the length of their horns, which spread to a considerable width – with a herd in Charters Towers being part of a developing tourist industry in that part of the state.

Those western cattle are described as “some of the longest horned cattle in the world that are direct descendants of the millions of Texas Longhorns that walked in the great trail herds from Texas in the United States in the late 1800s”.

And it is understood the small Burdekin herd are descendants of some of those cattle in the western area.

The local herd is part of a mixed group of cattle including four full-breed Longhorns, a Longhorn-Charolaise cross and a Brahman Bull that are all enjoying a relaxed life together in a local paddock.

While the four full-breed Longhorns are not fully developed, there is evidence that their horns are well on the way to being of considerable width by the time they are fully grown.

However, the owners of the small local Longhorn “family” have no intention of developing the herd further, with their current role being just to look after the cattle because their other family members did not have the land to keep them.



ABOVE and LEFT—Two of the full-breed Texas Longhorn cattle that are on a Burdekin property.

BELOW—The small herd, which includes four Longhorns, one Longhorn Charolaise cross and a Brahman Bull.



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# Shark hunter's advice, a Barra just in time and a new playground



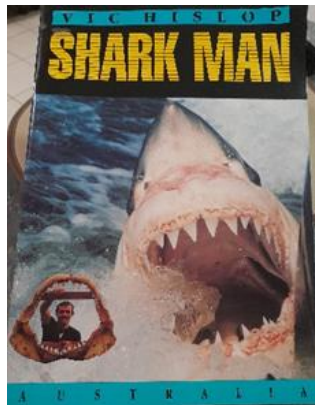
With JEANETTE GARVEY



SHARKS have been problematic in the Burdekin River this year, with many fishermen reporting the loss of prized fish to sharks. It's an issue dear to the heart of retired shark hunter, Vic



Hislop (pictured above with his son, who is aptly named Hunter). Vic regularly calls into Groper Creek and takes time to educate as many people as possible on the behaviour of the ace predators. "Shark numbers are increasing and people need to be aware of the dangers," he said. "Not enough is being done to protect people and I question the statistics, with missing swimmers and surfers reported as drowning deaths, when they've actually been taken by sharks."

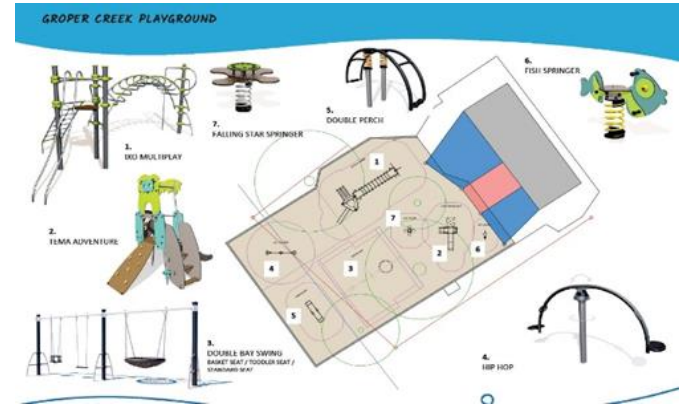


ONE prize fish that didn't get away prior to the season closure on November 1 was this 110cm Barramundi, snared by 15-year-old Mitch Sticklin (left) of Kelso. Groper Creek Grandad, Lynn Sticklen obviously handed down some tips, with the fish taking Mitch's lure. Barramundi are now off limits until the season re-opening on February 1, 2023.

THE Burdekin Shire Council has placed its order for Groper Creek's new playground, as part of its 2022/23 Budgeted \$95,000 allocation. The playground has been expanded and the installation of the new equipment is anticipated to be completed in time for Easter 2023. Features of the new playground include a three-bay swing set comprising basket swing, toddler swing and standard swing. The Ixo Metal Multiplay Unit is designed with pre-teens in mind, with the variety of testing elements giving it widespread, long-lasting appeal for junior users. Perhaps the most exciting piece will be the Hip Hop Rotating See-Saw, which is suitable for kids



## Jetty Jottings



of all ages and never before seen in the Burdekin. Younger children gradually learn about the fun of speed on roundabouts as they gain self-confidence and test their sense of balance on a fun piece of equipment that combines rotating and swinging. A Double Spring Perch is also new to the district with the spring ride enhancing a child's sense of balance, helping them to co-ordinate their movements. According to Council, the playground design has been carefully considered and is rounded out with a number of smaller pieces to ensure multiple people can enjoy this great new space all at once. We're excited!

REPAIRS to the Mosquito Creek end of the Groper Creek Reserve have been completed ahead of the anticipated wet season. A freakish rainbomb in January, 2020 dumped more than 500mm in 24 hours, resulting in an inland flood, which left wash-outs and severe erosion. Bank stabilisation and remediation works were last month completed by local excavators, Olsen Contractors via the Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust (BSRIT).



Groper Creek Caravan Park Manager Dan Garvey (left) with Olsen Contractors' Stewart Duthie

## Holiday Hi-Jinks at The Vault

MEMBERS of the Home Hill Choral Society will be returning to the stage in December as they use their talents to highlight the fact that it is holiday time, with another enjoyable presentation for the people of the local community. The Society has presented a number of excellent shows over the past year on stage at their permanent home – The Vault – at 93 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill in the town's central business district and this presentation of "Holiday Hi-Jinks!" will add another enjoyable night of entertainment leading into the Christmas Break. The last program the Society presented on stage at The Vault was "Opportunity Knocks" and judging by reported com-

ments and feedback from patrons who attended the show, two things stood out – 1, "this was the most hilarious show they have ever seen" and 2, "Patrons saw what a great rapport the cast had between them and that helped make the show memorable and very funny". The performance of *Holiday Hi-Jinks!* will be no different as Society members take to the stage at The Vault on Friday, December 9 at 7.30pm and on Saturday, December 10 at 1.30pm. Cost of attendance is \$20 per person and light refreshments will be served during the evening. Tickets are available from Erin Brennan on 0428 822 091 and eftpos is available.



### Parliament Update

Parliament resumed in early October and since then, we have had two sittings with some big announcements for our emergency services personnel and volunteers. Not only did the Minister release the long overdue KPMG and SES reviews, but he also announced a new Emergency Services structure, which will see the SES and the new Marine Rescue Queensland move across to the Queensland Police Service. It's a big change and there is plenty of work that will need to be done in order to ensure our emergency service volunteers have the resources and funding they need to respond to their communities in times of disaster.



### Christmas appeal

My annual Christmas appeal is now open until December 16 and like last year, I am hoping our community will once again be able to bring joy to families in need right across the electorate. Every donation, big or small, makes a huge difference, because it shows people who are doing it tough that the community cares and that they are not alone. I know that not everyone is in a position to contribute but the important thing is that we all do what we can to help those less fortunate and that can be as simple as saying hello and sharing a smile. This year, Dr Tata has kindly agreed to also host a donation point at his Home Hill Surgery for anyone unable to travel to my office. Gifts, no matter how big or small, will be gratefully accepted and I would like to thank Dr Tata and the Home Hill Surgery staff for their support. As with previous years, donations can also be made at my office or if you would like to make a donation but are unable to drop in, please call my office on 4767 0500 and we can arrange collection for you.

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## Uli Liessmann comments . .

HAPPY Christmas and a healthy and a successful New Year to you all. Most importantly you and your family need to stay safe. Take your time if you are going anywhere over the Christmas period—better late than not getting there at all.

IT HAS been a long slog and after more than one year, the “Gateway to Home Hill” (pictured) was erected on November 8, 2022 in Lloyd Mann Park. The idea, conception and planning were by myself—the fabrication of the installation was by Vass Engineering and it was built by an employee and tradesman, Scott Apelt. The construction and erection in the park, including safety standards,



was undertaken by Liessmann and Sons' qualified trade employees. This is linked to the Home Hill Harvest Festival Ephemera to complement the other installations that are already in the park. I must thank Council, as the finances came through the Arts grant, RADF and this would not have been possible without the assistance of Janice Horan. I appreciate

all the help to have reached this stage of the project. The pictures are still to come to finalise this installation. This has demonstrated nothing is impossible and this project is a tribute to not only the pioneers, but also to present day Home Hill-ians, who have contributed to this town in both big and small ways.

A GREAT turnout for the Harvest Festival, with a very large crowd and great weather. Thanks to the people who took the time and trouble to enter a float, or who just took part in the parade. All in all, a great effort by the committee.

THE Memorial Park looks a picture, neat and tidy, with the removal of three large old trees and some low hanging branches. All we now need is the concrete path through the park for the Anzac Day Parade and I'm led to believe that Council is working on this project.



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

THE Home Hill RSL Sub Branch is on its way to placing four Banner poles in Memorial Park, either side of the new purposed pathway. This was made possible with support letters from our local MP's, Andrew Willcox, Dale Last and the North Queensland RSL office. The banners will add to the overall ambiance of the park by marking the entrance to the park. The next big decision will entail deciding the appropriate decals for the banners, in keeping with the overall Anzac theme. The Home Hill Sub Branch had its annual Dinner at the Crown Hotel, which was well attended. I would recommend its restaurant as a great venue with great food.

Just a thought—for next year's budget, why not build a downhill mountain bike track at Inkerman Hill (I have mentioned this before, as the water park facilities are getting close to finishing). Surely something big needs to happen on the south side of the river—just to even out some of the spending. The road is already built to the top, so all we need is the downhill track side. This could be one of the best sites in Queensland for mountain bike enthusiasts and here we have perfect conditions to spend a few bucks on the south side. This would create a whole new tourist industry, with people from all over Queensland, as there is a large following for this sport - a true signature site and event.

STILL on the subject of trying to improve the basic—in the Memorial Hall, “The Tom Jackson” meeting room. This room has the worst acoustics possible that you could imagine. It cannot be a hard fix to remedy this problem for a meeting room of such a small size, and with the amount of use it gets, it would be a priority. Please put this in the next budget—this fix could not cost too much.

Just a thought—If a turtle loses its shell, is it naked, homeless or is it just divorced.

THESE are my views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 — or go to [www.ulliessmann.com.au](http://www.ulliessmann.com.au) - ULI LIESSMANN



### 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.

# Day of Remembrance for World War I fallen

THE Home Hill community has again taken the time to remember The Fallen from the First World War as a small crowd of ex-servicemen and women, representatives of local schools and organisations and individual residents



gathered outside the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday, November 11 to commemorate Remembrance Day.

The day recognises the signing of the Armistice at the end of the First World War in 1918 and the many thousands of lives lost in the conflict.

The service was led by the President of the Home Hill Sub Branch of the RSL, Richard Kelly in front of the building which carries the names of many former Home Hill residents who served and lost their lives throughout the world in World War I.

After addresses by Padre Andrew Baillin and Bur-

dekin Shire councillor, Kaylee Boccalatte, many of those present laid wreaths in front of the memorial including representatives of the RSL, the Home Hill High School and Home Hill Police.



## 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 [djjacko@bigpond.com](mailto:djjacko@bigpond.com) or [secretary@homehillchamber.com](mailto:secretary@homehillchamber.com)*