

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

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## Sport leads Home Hill's Aussie Day awards

LEADERS of two of Home Hill's major sporting organisations have taken the local honours amongst the many awards handed out to citizens of the Burdekin Shire in the annual Australia Day awards announced at the presentation ceremony held at the Burdekin Theatre on Thursday, January 26.

President of the Burdekin Race Club, Ricky Gudge and Secretary of the Home Hill Tennis Association, Kate Casswell each made three appearances on stage during the ceremonies to receive awards for their own and their organisation's work in their particular sports.

There was strong support for Australia Day in the Burdekin with a crowd of about 400 people at the Theatre for the presentations, which were highlighted by the announcement of respected Burdekin Police Liaison officer, Gerald Henaway as the Burdekin Shire's Citizen of the Year.

In announcing the 2023 Citizen of the Year award, Mayor Lyn McLaughlin described Gerald Henaway as "a dedicated and well-respected Police Liaison Officer".

She said he was respected by his peers as an exemplary community leader and was also recognised by the wider community for making an extraordinary contribution to the local community over many years.

"Not only is Gerald a role model to the young people that he supports, but also to other Police Liaison Officers in the Townsville and surrounding districts," she said.

Gerald Henaway pioneered and is the current President of Burdekin Area Youth Watch (better known as BAY-Watch), a program which aims to mentor and guide Indigenous young people through childhood and adolescence into adult life. He also works tire-



Burdekin Race Club Secretary Leanne Gudge and President, Ricky Gudge (centre with trophy) with just some of the Race Club members who contributed to the success of the 2022 Burdekin Grower Race Day, resulting in their Community Event of the Year Award (from left) Holly Davenport, Jodi Levitt, Jan Davies, Robyn Hewson and Torrie Davies.



ABOVE—Burdekin Shire Citizen of the Year, Gerald Henaway

lessly to support Indigenous young people, including to running youth and school holiday programs; transporting them to Sunday School, Touch Football Basketball; as well as driving them to Townsville to watch the North Queensland Cowboys play to name but a few.

"Gerald is a very humble man, lives his values and everything he does is motivated to give our young people the very best chance at life," Cr McLaughlin said.

Mr Henaway was presented with a framed aerial photograph of the Burdekin Bridge (taken by Mark McDonald of Burdekin Drones).

Keynote speaker was Australia Day Ambassador, Selina Tomasich OAM, of the

RIGHT—Tennis Association secretary, Kate Casswell with one of her three awards.



Sunshine Coast, who also assisted Mayor Lyn McLaughlin with the presentation of the Shire Australia Day awards.

The 2023 Young Citizen of the Year was presented to Zavier Wood who is regarded as a great role model for youth within his school community and the Shire Youth Council, while the judges also announced a Young Citizen of the Year Achievement Award, which was presented to Brent Dingle who is passionate about advocating for people with disabilities and has been asked to mentor

Continued on Page 3—

A DISAPPOINTING habit is developing in Home Hill with a small minority of supermarket shoppers taking their groceries home from the supermarket in the trolleys and then leaving the empty shopping aid in and around the streets of our town. The trolleys are provided by the supermarket to assist shoppers with transporting their grocery needs, but some people seem to overdo the friendship by carrying their usage a bit too far—literally, as some can be found many blocks away from where the shopping is originally carried out. The empty trolleys can often be seen lying around the streets of much larger cities and towns—but it is only recently we have seen the empties left around Home Hill's streets. How hard is it for the guilty shoppers to show a bit of pride in the town and take the time to return the trolleys to where they came from after use?

WHILE La Nina has helped to provide welcome rainfall (to some anyway) over the past year, the wet season has hit with a vengeance since the start of the new year, providing high totals in rain gauges around the district. Our local cane-growers would have been amongst those who were not so welcoming of the rain, with heavy falls from the start of the 2022 crushing setting the season onto the back foot for most of the year and then having to endure even more falls through December and into the final weeks. While the majority of Wilmar's local crop (99 per cent) was harvested, it only came through patience and perseverance in between varying falls of rain throughout the region. However, while the completion of the majority of the harvest was met, there have been a number of complaints from local residents about the after affects of the seasonal rain. One Fourteenth Avenue resident pointed out that they had "water inundation into the garage and a lake out the front of our house" as they looked for assistance from the council for their problems.

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

FEBRUARY, 2023 would have provided a big year of celebrations for Home Hill—if only a major newspaper company had not decided that Home Hill did not deserve a newspaper any more. Back on February 8, 1923, the late Tom Jackson (pictured) brought his desires to fruition when he published the first edition of *The Home Hill Observer*—a pioneering news source for the developing area on the southern side of the Burdekin River. Tom had been an employee of *The Delta Advocate* when he decided to ride his horse across the river to see if the pioneers of the Home Hill District wanted a newspaper of their own—and the rest is history. The start-up was not without its own trials and tribulations as, with many well-meaning helpers who assisted in installing the machinery into their first small building, the speed of the motor was too fast and when it was started up, the bed of the press went through the back wall of the building. That was on February 1, 1923—hence the delay to February 8 for the first day of publica-



tion. In an era of individual type pieces for each letter of each word in the paper, it meant everything had to be put back where they started and work recommenced. However, the paper existed for 90 years until it was decided by the company that *The Observer* should be incorporated into *The Burdekin Advocate*—which then only existed for a few more years until *The Advocate* joined many other regional papers that were closed down—a sad time for all of those regional areas as the paper was the backbone of life in those country towns. However, that was one of the reasons *The Home Hill News* came into existence as the lack of its own newspaper meant the town was being ignored when it came to reporting of news events in Home Hill. Through the Chamber of Commerce and the sponsored printing by Wilmar Sugar at Inkerman Mill, Home Hill is now one of the few towns that still has its own individual newspaper.

Unfortunately, drainage in Fourteenth Avenue has been a problem for many of the elected Councils over a long period of time and it always seems to go into the "too hard basket" because of the cost involved, while council proceeds with upgrading other areas of the shire. Other complaints referred to the obvious repercussions of any rainfall—the overgrown sides of local roads and highways and also private properties, especially in the Central Business District of Home Hill. While Council has contractors who are mowing where and when they can in between the flooded water tables along local roads, while farmers also do their best to maintain road shoulders around their own properties, it is unfortunate that the start to the wet season also comes at the same time as a major part of the council's work force takes annual leave. However, our complainants are also quick to ask why the overgrown grass is "not as obvious on the Ayr side of the river?" Then there was the query about the highway entrance into Home Hill from the south with it noted that "it is not a welcome site for visitors to the town to see the sides of the road in such a state". It is to be hoped that the Main Roads Department also has their contractors on the job as the wet season progresses—just to help present Home Hill in a much better way to the many travellers who pass through at this time of the year.

RESIDENTS of the Home Hill community have again excelled with their displays of Christmas cheer throughout December, with judges of the Chamber of Commerce Residential Christmas Decoration awards handed a difficult task in finding winners of the trophies on offer. While there are no major prizes on offer with the trophies, the chance to show off a home owner's decorating ability is incentive enough for the many colourful displays of lighting that are presented. It is also noticeable that each year, the position of the exceptional entries seems to move around different areas of the town, as some drop out and other homes spring into life—one of the homes in the Inkerman Mill Estate being an example with a display that impressed judges. The Neighbourhood Award has also moved along Fourteenth Avenue—last year it changed from the central part to the southern end and this year, it was awarded to several homes north from Twelfth Street that were deemed to be worthy winners even though they did not have any neighbours over the road because of the Primary School playing fields. Again, we have to urge residents of other neighbourhoods around the town to highlight their decorating skills next year to see if the award can be moved away from Fourteenth Avenue, where it has been permanently placed for many years. Only time will tell if any other home owners can get a win.— DAVID JACKSON

# Australia Day recognition for Shire volunteers

Continued from Page 1—

younger children with Cerebral Palsy.

Lifetime Service Awards recognising the significant voluntary contribution of members of the shire to community organisations were presented to a large number of shire residents, including a number from Home Hill.

"We are very fortunate in our region to have volunteers of this calibre who through their selfless contribution of their own time and work have enriched numerous groups.," Cr McLaughlin commented.

Bronze Awards for 20 plus years



Newly naturalised Burdekin residents, Mrs Sandar Oo from Myanmar and Mrs Se-taita Qelo Angelo from Fiji.

of voluntary contribution were presented to several members of the Burdekin Tourism Association including Joan Andersen, Michelle Darker, Flo Downing, Maureen Perry, Judy Petersen and Beth Wall.

Silver Awards (30 plus years) were presented to Kate Casswell (Tennis), Ricky Gudge (Rugby League and Racing) and Margaret Taylor (Uniting Church and YWAM). A Gold Award (40 plus years) was presented to Desley Musumeci, who has volunteered on many committees, starting as a founder of the Rotaract Club in Home Hill (established in 1968).

The Australia Day Community Event of the Year was presented to The Burdekin Growers Race Day, which Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said was one of the Burdekin's most celebrated community social events which is now entering its 25<sup>th</sup> year. "It is a day celebrated with patrons socialising, dressing fashionably and greeting other racing enthusiasts that have travelled," she said. The Shire Volunteer of the Year

was presented to Kate Casswell in recognition of her volunteer work in many and varied aspects of tennis in the Burdekin and wider areas of the state and Australia.

Volunteer of the Year Achievement Awards were presented to Michelle Darker and Ricky Gudge

The winner of the Senior Cultural Award was Aileen Jones for excellence and dedication in the field of Arts and Culture while a Senior Cultural Achievement Award was presented to Eliza Worlein.

The Shire Environment Award was presented to Keith Kiloh for his outstanding dedication and commitment to environmental work.

The first Junior Sportsperson of the Year Awards was presented to Makayla Pirrone for her outstanding achievements in Swimming and Basketball while a second Junior Sportsperson of the Year Award was presented to Kiera Wiseman for her outstanding achievement in the sport of Waterskiing.

A Junior Sportsperson Achievement Award was presented to Ellyana Mugica for outstanding achievements in the sport of Football (Soccer).

The Senior Sportsperson of the Year Award was presented to Jarrod Langford for his outstanding achievements in Ten Pin Bowling. Jarrod was in the USA competing on the Professional Tenpin Bowling Association Tour and his Aunt, Rachel Webber accepted the award on



LEFT—Lifetime Volunteer Award recipients (30 plus years) were (from left), Margaret Taylor, Kate Casswell and Ricky Gudge



LEFT—Mayor Lyn McLaughlin (left) and Keynote Speaker Selina Tomasich OAM, (right) with Tourism Volunteers with Lifetime Volunteer Awards (back, from left) Joan Andersen, Beth Wall and Michelle Darker and (front) Judy Petersen and Flo Downing and (RIGHT) Maureen Perry.



RIGHT—The Lifetime Volunteer Award recipient (40 plus years) was Desley Musumeci.



**ANOTHER EXCELLENT  
DAY OF RACING  
on the Home Hill Track  
Saturday, February 18**

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

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**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**



# Free kids bash to remember Justin Roy

THE children of the Burdekin are once again being given the opportunity to remember the life of the late Justin Roy Scott, when another 'Justin Roy Kids Bash' takes place at the Home Hill Race Course on Saturday, February 11. The memorial event has been hosted by the family of Justin Scott since he tragically lost his life in flooding at Groper Creek several years ago and it has become a day of free fun for all participants.

Everyone is invited to join in the activities, which will



Try the Petting Farm

commence in and around the Race Club's facilities and shady trees from when the gates open at 12 noon on February 11.

Sponsors for the day include Truenorth Interiors Pty Ltd, Peto Marine, Burdekin Communications/Jaycar, Vass Engineering, Home Hill News & Coffee, Amcal Chemist Ayr, Crown Hotel, Next Gen, the Caspanello Family, Amusements Plus and Truenorth Equipment Hire.

And the sponsorship means there will be plenty of activities to keep the children entertained right through to the finalisation of activities and presentation of prizes from 4.30pm.

Those activities include a

Chair-O-Plane/Merry-go-round, Large Jumping Castle, Tommy the Trackless Train, an Animal Petting Farm, the Surf 'N Slide Waterslide, the Nitro Mechanical Bull, Fairy Floss and Slushies for the kids, Face Painting and Three-Legged Races in five age groups.

Prizes that will be available to be won by the children throughout the afternoon will be in the Jog for Justin and the Hobby Horses in four age groups as well as in the Colouring in Competition – and not forgetting the Helicopter Lolly Drop with prizes for the winners after it takes place at 4pm. On top of all that activity, organisers are offering a raffle prize of a 6hp Mercury motor, kindly donated by Peto



Family of the late Justin Roy Scott (from left) Leanne Gudge, Annette Vassalini and Helen and Ron Scott.

Marine with all proceeds going to local charities. The Burdekin Race Club will be running a bar (there will be no BYO available on course on the day) with all proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which is affiliated with Racing Queensland), while Justin hats and fishing shirts will also be available for sale on the day. Lunch will be available via a Free sausage sizzle. The "Big Kids" are not forgotten with the RJR Racing Mechanical Bull Challenge, for

which prospective participants need to get their teams of three together - whatever team rides the longest will be deemed to be the winner. Presentation of Prizes will take place from 4.30pm, as well as the drawing of the Peto Marine 6hp motor. The Family of Justin Scott have offered their thanks to all sponsors and the community for supporting the day in memory of their much-loved and dearly missed Justin Roy Scott. Everything is free - except for alcohol and merchandise.

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# Wet conditions prevent complete end to harvest

CRUSHING of the 2022 Burdekin district sugar cane crop ended officially in the week ending January 7, 2023, with the four Wilmar Burdekin mills crushing just over 123,000 tonnes of cane for that week, after heavy rain on the previous Thursday and Friday brought an end to the 2022 season.

In his final weekly Burdekin Production Report, Wilmar's Cane Supply Manager Burdekin Region, John Tait advised that the mills had crushed slightly more than the budgeted 8.2 million tonnes, "however, some cane was left unharvested due to the wet conditions".

Mr Tait advised that the average weekly CCS for that week was 10.44, with the season-to-date CCS finishing on 13.61 units. "The highest CCS sample of 14.2 was from a rake of Q183-3R in the Inkerman Productivity district," he said.

In his previous December Production Reports, Mr Tait had advised that Invicta Mill's season had ended on Tuesday, December 20 (week 28) – a day earlier than planned – due to a trans-former failure.

At that time, Mr Tait said through-put at Pioneer and Kalamia Mills was down, with wet weather representing more than 85 per cent of the total lost time at Pioneer and 50 per cent at Kalamia.

He reported again in week 29 (week ending December 31) that "wet weather impacted through-put at all three operational mills, however Pioneer was the most affected with crushing operations unable to recommence until Friday morning".

Mr Tait said that just under 99 per cent of the forecast 8.20 million tonne Burdekin crop has been crushed to that date, while "the remaining cane continues to grow on with the wet and humid conditions".

He said the average weekly CCS was 10.64, with the season-to-date CCS sitting on 13.65 units at that time.

Mr Tait offered his thanks to all growers, harvesting contractors and Wilmar employees for their efforts throughout this year's crush.

"Mills will now commence a very busy capital and maintenance program to get ready for the 2023 season," he announced.

## Final crushing figures

To Week 30—ending January 7, 2023

Cane crushed	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta		3,214,971
Pioneer	42,994	1,623,634
Kalamia	29,516	1,605,491
Inkerman	50,558	1,769,480
Burdekin	123,068	8,213,576

CCS	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta		13.96
Pioneer	10.85	13.92
Kalamia	10.03	13.01
Inkerman	10.32	13.22
Burdekin	10.44	13.61

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# February meeting to commence 2023 racing year

RACING returns to the Home Hill track on Saturday, February 18 as the Burdekin Race Club plans a five-event program of events to start off its year of racing on a track that is benefitting from an upgrade last year and the recent rain that fell over the district.

The February 18 program includes an Open Plate (set weights) over 1000 metres, a Benchmark 55 Handicap over 1000 metres; a Benchmark 50 Handicap over 1460 metres; a Class B Handicap over 1180 metres and a Maiden Plate (two-year-old and set weights, with QTIS Bonus applicable) over 1180 metres. All races offer a total of \$10,000 in prize money.

The Burdekin Club last raced on Saturday, December 3, 2022, with excellent nominations in the five-event program and a small crowd in attendance to enjoy the afternoon of racing. However, the spirit of Christmas was evident with gifts given out to young patrons on course and older punters receiving rewards with drawn prizes for their failed bets.

Local success came first up in race one, a benchmark 65 handicap over 1460 metres, with the Ricky Gudge trained seven-year-old gelding, Keighley Sun (Bonnie Thomson) showing a clean pair of heels to the rest of the field to win by 6.75 lengths, from Louie the Legend (apprentice Jenna Edwards) with Getout Of My Neigh (apprentice Nicole Seymour) in third place.

A large group of mainly local syndicate owners were on hand to share the hoinours after the win.

The fourth race, a Benchmark 45 Handicap over 1180 metres, brought further success for trainer Ricky Gudge, with the five-year-old bay or brown mare, Lumerai (Nicole Seymour) gaining a third placing, over a length behind the winner, Broadwater (Darby Amos) and second placed Koscina (Natalea Summers).

The field in that race was reduced before the start when the six-year-old gelding, Redzeb was a late scratching after its

jockey, veteran rider Peter Cullen received a leg injury when another horse kicked out.

Paramedics assisted the jockey with the injury, but with no available replacements on course, the horse had to be scratched.

Jockey Bonnie Thomson followed up her race one success with another win on Dovi's Day for trainer John Manzelmann in the second event, the Class B Handicap over 1460 metres, ahead of Target the Stars (Nicole Seymour) with Iron Mask (Jeffrey Felix) in third place.

The third race, a Maiden Plate for three-year-olds and up over 1180 metres was won by five-year-old mare, On Your Skates (Pietro



Romeo), three lengths ahead of top weight Orcus (Jeffrey Felix) with Single Malt (Jenna Edwards) in third place. The final event of the day, a QTIS Class Three Plate(1000 metres) was won by four-year-old gelding, Hallside Hammer. Hallside Hammer (Carl Spry) with Courting second.

ABOVE—Some of the winning owners of Keighley Sun and trainer Ricky Gudge (third from left with the horse) after the gelding scored an impressive six length win in December.



Jockey Peter Cullen is helped by paramedics after being injured prior to the fourth race in Home Hill at the December 3 meeting.



Families joined in the fun of the December meeting with Christmas gitts handed out to the young patrons



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# Home Hill lights up for Christmas

THE residents of Home Hill once again lit up their homes and surrounding gardens for Christmas 2022, as decorations in all shapes, sizes and colours were brought out to add the atmosphere to the town's festive period.

The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce once again offered a trophy for the Residential Christmas Decoration Award for individual home displays, while the Neighbourhood Award was judged in those areas where there were up to six or more homes in the one block, either on the same side of the street or on both sides.

As has been the case in past years, there were many homes that regularly decorate their gardens each year, while in some cases, some long term displays drop out of the competition, while others come into it to show off their talents.

The decorations also show the changing face of Christmas displays, with many new types appearing on and about homes—this year it was evident that blow-up Santa's in many different forms were a growing part of the festive activities.

The judges were once again impressed with the colourful lighting display by Michelle and Noel Bathis in Second Avenue who were the winners of the Residential Christmas Decoration Award in 2021. The couple once again excelled with their lighting which extended from the kerbing and channelling at the front of their home through to the top of the roof lines of the house.

In fact, it was obvious that they had a

many more lights added to those of the previous years, resulting in the majority of the judges giving the couple the nod for the top prize.

The Neighbourhood award has stayed in Fourteenth Avenue, although it was the homes in a section between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets that impressed all judges, instead of the previous year's winners who were between Sixth and Eighth Street.

Those neighbours also had a disadvantage of no homes over the road.



Michelle and Noel Bathis once again lit up their home in Second Avenue, Home Hill—but with many more lights in 2022—as they once again won the Home Hill Residential Christmas Decoration Award.



Representatives of (from left) the Linton, Bailey, Chappell and Davidson families in Fourteenth Avenue (residences opposite the Home Hill State Primary School playing fields) combined to accept the Neighbourhood award in the annual residential Christmas Decoration Awards for December, 2022.

## HOME HILL NEWS

### Advertising Rates

(From September, 2022)

	Member's Price	Non-Member's Price
One-eighth of a Page	\$25.00	\$30.00
Quarter Page	\$50.00	\$60.00
Half Page	\$100.00	\$110.00
Full Page	\$150.00	\$160.00

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# Joe's project 50 years in the making

A PROJECT that was commenced up to 50 years ago is being given a new lease of life as its instigator, cane farmer Joe Rigano works on resurrecting the monument to the sugar industry that he first considered when he was a charter member of the former Home Hill Apex Club.

We photographed Mr Rigano in the process of upgrading the monument in front of a former service station now occupied by local business, A. & K. Mechanical opposite Lloyd Mann Gardens.

Joe Rigano said he had first raised the project when he joined the town's new Apex Club and became the inaugural Community Service Director.

One of his first projects was to create and install a town map for the benefit of tourists and locals, which was completed and installed in the small triangular park opposite Ashworth's Rock Shop. However, about three months after its installation, he said he received a late night phone call to go and

have a look at his sign. When he did so, he found it had been smashed beyond recognition and spread many metres down the highway through town by what was believed to have been a semi-trailer.

Since then, he constructed a tall replica of a stick of sugar cane which has been in place for several decades. Mr Rigano is now in the process of resurrecting his original idea, with the town map now in place as a more solid construction and should it be hit by anything, it is more likely to cause significant damage to the perpetrator.

The back of the map carries a reminder of some of the early tools used by our pioneers, including replicas of a stick of dynamite and a Fosters Beer bottle joining the tools of that era. While the map is almost complete, the stick of cane will disappear for a while it is upgraded and will be brought back and installed in the same position. He will keep an eye on the progress and will highlight its new look when the work is completed.



Cane Farmer, Joe Rigano was working late in the day when our camera caught him recently as he worked on the new town map that he had originally planned as an Apex Project 50 years ago before a semi-trailer wiped it out.



A look at the back of Joe Rigano's new town map reveals his impressions of the mostly hand tools used by the district pioneers to settle the area including a replica of a stick of dynamite and a large Fosters Beer bottle.

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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 information



# Craft Spectacular back with strong support after break

THE Burdekin Craft Spectacular has returned in spectacular fashion after a two-year Covid-enforced break, with strong crowd support for the more than 40 stalls that were set up in the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Saturday, December 3.

Even though the crowd numbers were reportedly down on previous years, organisers of the event from the Burdekin Uniting Church-

es were more than happy with their success, even though it was held in the busy December period, instead of around the former Mothers' Day in May timing.

The Craft Spectacular has not been held for more than two years, resulting in a survey being undertaken amongst stall holders early in the year to gauge interest in holding the event in 2022, even though it was too late to arrange it around the normal May date.

As a result, it was decided to hold it in December, resulting in over 40 stall holders accepting the invitation to attend and filling the Memorial Hall to capacity.

Organiser, Mrs Judy Berryman said all sites were sold, everyone had a good day and the event overall was a success. She said there were a lot of different stalls amongst the displays and participants came from as far away as Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay and Proserpine as well as a number of local craft enthusiasts "and they were all happy with the success of the day".

Mrs Berryman said it was hoped to take the date of the Craft Spectacular back to the original May date in 2023, although any decision had been left open until their next meeting in February. She said the event had been difficult to organise in December, with a lot of other things on around the district on that same day.

While they were happy with the overall result, they would consider moving the event forward to May again at a future meeting.



Bevan and Kevin Oats displayed the results of their talents in making wooden children's toys.



Geraldine and Ross Cantarella at their pottery stall at the Craft Spectacular.



Ron and Meryl Smith of Home Hill added their jewellery to the many other stalls at the Memorial Hall



Selling the take-home goodies at the front of the hall were (from left) Judy Cheetham, Robyn Schultz and Jane Beckett.



Elizabeth Marshall from Home Hill with her home-made bags

# Enter NOW for Rags to Runway in 2023

SEWING enthusiasts wishing to show off their talents will have until Friday, March 3, 2023 to get their entry forms in for this year's Burdekin Rags to Runway.


While the presentations are planned for Saturday, April 22, 2023, there will be one major change this year with the event being held in the Burdekin Memorial Hall instead in the open air setting of the

Burdekin Netball Courts, as it has in past years. Entrants are required to purchase items either from second-hand organisations, local dress salons' throw-out racks, or their own closets, to redesign for the Burdekin Artisans' runway competition. (Receipts are required in the budget sections.) Entry forms are available from [artipeople99@yahoo.com](mailto:artipeople99@yahoo.com) or by phoning Sandy Milani (0427 821 065) or Desley Jackson (0497 356 355).

**Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc.**

Is calling for Entries in the

## 2023 Burdekin Rags to Runway



Entry Forms to be lodged by  
**March 3, 2023**

Presentation night  
**April 22, 2023**

**\$10**  
Per entry


**FIVE categories**

Information and forms are available at the Art Space, 170 Arts on the Avenue  
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### Welcome to 2023!

I HOPE the festive season provided you and your family with the chance to spend some valuable time together. While the festive season may have brought joy to many, I know that, for many including myself, hearts were broken at the news of another life lost in an incident involving young offenders. In 2022, I spoke on youth crime at almost every sitting of parliament and moved two motions for debate on behalf of the LNP calling for action on crime. Just because we live in a small town does not mean we are immune to the juvenile crime that those north of us have faced. Please ensure your property is secure and report any suspicious behaviour immediately to the police. We know that our Police men and women are doing the best they can, but they need the support of good legislation and as Shadow Minister for Police, I'll be looking to ensure that they have the powers and resources needed to do the job they signed up for in keeping our communities safe.

### Wet season is upon us again

THE wet season is well and truly underway and as a I write this, we are experiencing significant rainfall across the district. While it's not uncommon and certainly part of our life up here in the north, it's important that we don't become complacent and consider not only our safety but the safety of those around us. Please ensure you have the appropriate preparations in place for your home and your family and, of course, when it comes to driving through floodwaters, remember the age old adage – if it's flooded, forget it!

### Here to help

IF YOU or someone you know has an issue that you need help with, please remember my job is to represent you. I may not always be able to fix the problem but rest assured, I will always do my best. For help, please call my office on 1800 817 594 or send an email to [burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Until next time, stay safe and well.

Dale

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## Uli Liessmann comments . .

WELCOME to a new year in the Burdekin and a healthy one—because a happy one reflects a healthy one and as you get older, your health is everything.

AS I look back over the past year, I think 'what have I achieved both on a personal and community basis?' Just about ticked all my personal boxes and the community one is a hard slog . . . so many road blocks and it does not make it any easier when I'm a realist and do not believe in sugar coating everything. But I have the best interest at heart for our community and strive for a fair go for everyone, even when we, the ratepayer, gets slugged for an additional unsolicited \$30 in our last rates. I am also led to believe that this \$30 fee was not instigated by the Councillors. The instigator should get a life and try to live on an ordinary every-day wage. It is not that the Council is running out of funds anyway, not going by the last printed budget report.

TOP marks to the new Emergency Action Guide printed by the Government and distributed by the Council. This is a great and helpful magazine—If you don't have one, get one and keep it.

THERE was a small problem on December 18, 2022 (which I reported) in regard to the outage of the electronic town clock and the Christmas Star at the Comfort Stop, plus lights. The response was great and all was repaired in a couple of days.

HERE is a tremendous suggestion for a new year resolution—How about if we, the people of Home Hill, had a different councillor come over and address the Home Hill Chamber once a month. It would show a commitment and acute support for Home Hill and south of the river community, letting the public know what is happening and how it will affect us. We do not want or need just a superficial gloss over. I am sure this would be appreciated, keeping in mind that the election is not that far off.

SOME of the road edging in town needs a bit of attention as well as in the grass cutting area. It would also be a good idea to check drains and culverts before and not wait for minor water flooding. This was reported and



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

fixed (Picture). A cost effective solution would be to be proactive and not reactive in regard to minor street maintenance through the Shire—just a thought!

COUNCIL meeting minutes—**December 13, 2022 council meeting 7.1.4. Adoption of**

**Revised Fox and Wild Dog Bounty Policy**—I am again asking—and have asked this question numerous times over the years—how hard is it to enter feral cats into the equations before all small native fauna is decimated because of the "it's too hard attitude". Are we not supposed to look after native wildlife before it's all gone? While you are at it why not add pigeons and sparrows to the list.

TECHNICAL SERVICES—**7.4.1. Burdekin Aquatic Centre Kiosk Construction and Entrance Works Contract Award**—Just wondering, is this part of the Government funding for the water park or is it an add-on and if so, at what cost? A simple question, but will I get an answer? it is doubtful, but I am ready for a surprise!

These are my views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or go to [www.uliliessmann.com.au](http://www.uliliessmann.com.au)

ULI LIESSMANN



## A bonus for Home Hill Primary School with its own pool



WHILE a lot has been written recently about the lack of ability of young students in Australia to swim, the younger generation in Home Hill can be thankful for the thought and planning of the town's pioneers (especially those associated with the Home Hill State Primary School) who built a swimming pool at the school al-

most a century ago. Our photo shows the school pool after its construction in 1927 with the former dressing sheds at the eastern end. Those sheds were destroyed in Cyclone Connie in the late 1950's and were rebuilt in its current position. Long-time residents will remember the "Threepenny Dips" that were held on weekends as fund raisers.



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