

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 87, March, 2023

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What's in the future for the Home Hill Pool?



A Consultant's report to a recent meeting of the Burdekin Shire Council, which recommended that the Home Hill 'Olympic' Swimming Pool be halved in length to 25 metres drew a quick and mostly negative response from the local community after it appeared in the council agenda. Those concerns were also picked up just as quickly by some of our elected representatives and it was the subject of discussions when the matter was raised at the February Home Hill Chamber of Commerce networking event.

THE Burdekin Shire Council has quickly refuted concerns expressed amongst the Home Hill Community about the future of the Home Hill Swimming Pool after a consultant's report was tabled at a meeting of the Council in February suggesting the halving of the length of the pool to 25 metres.

The minutes of the meeting reported the consultant's comments, which indicated that "Given the significant repairs/improvements identified in the engineering audit of the facility, the long term goal for the Home Hill Pool is the replacement of the existing 50.3 metre pool with a heated 25 metre pool".

The report continued – "It is believed this is a preferable outcome for not only the facility, but for the overall provision of aquatic facilities in the Shire. The significant costs associated with shortening the existing pool shell do not ad-

dress other issues identified with the facility.

"Replacing the existing main pool with a modern 25 metre pool widens the variety of aquatic facilities in the Shire and is supported by the local swimming club.

"However, given that this is a long term goal, the outcomes of the engineering audit should be undertaken for the interim period of operations". Those outcomes included "testing of pool water in both pools must be carried out in accordance with the Queensland Health's current 'Water Quality Guidelines for Public Aquatic Facilities' and to replace chipped and cracked floor and wall tiles and all of the pool shell construction joints needed resealing with a suitable mastic sealant."

The Home Hill Pool's future was also raised at a meeting of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce later that same week, where Mayor Lyn

McLaughlin and Cr Max Musumeci responded to concerns that had been raised on social media sites that day and were about to be raised by Chamber members.

It is understood that at least 75 comments had been broadcast on one site expressing concerns about the proposed shortening of the Home Hill Pool, prompting the two councillors to discuss the report before the chamber meeting.

Cr McLaughlin told the meeting that the Burdekin Shire had five swimming pools, with the Giru pool owned by Education Queensland.

She said the Millaroo and Clare pools operated on a key system and there were risk concerns and repairs were needed.

The Chamber meeting was told the Home Hill Pool, which is 55 yards in length

(50.3 metres) needs to be made a legal length for swimming records purposes.

Cr McLaughlin said the council would undertake community consultation before anything was done on the Home Hill Pool and she told the chamber that no councillors supported the recommendations.

They had repaired a pump at the Home Hill pool recently and the report had been sent back to the consultants.

Cr Musumeci also indicated that councillors had asked for parts of the consultant's report to be removed and the Mayor said that no money had been allocated in their budget for the pools at all.

It is understood a meeting was also held in Millaroo in that same week to discuss concerns amongst the Up

Continued on Page 3—

The finer points of Home Hill . .

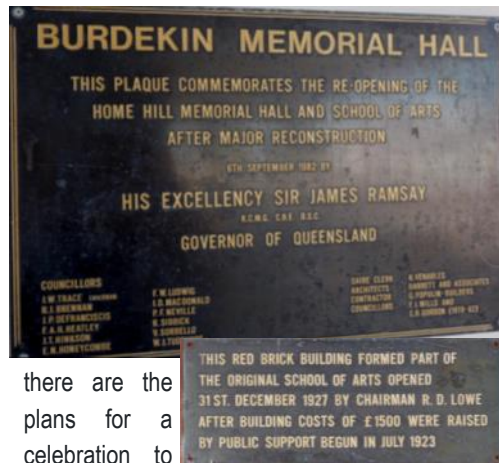
OUR report last month with regard to the project by local cane farmer, Joe Rigano to install a town map of Home Hill and the history behind the original attempts to install the map, has had a follow-up from Mr Rigano with regard to his history with the Home Hill Apex Club. Home Hill still has many of its town residents, just like Joe Rigano, who volunteer their time to assist local organisations and that assistance is very welcome. However, it is also no secret that the number of volunteers is dwindling considerably with many organisations desperately in need of helpers to carry on their work into the future. Service clubs, in particular, are well down on numbers compared to past years and they would welcome more younger members to put their hands up and help contribute to their efforts. That is where a suggestion from Joe Rigano to recognise some of the past efforts of our former service clubs would go a long way towards assisting the clubs that are left. Home Hill currently has Rotary and Lions Clubs—but the town did have the former Apex Club, a Lioness Club, a Junior Farmers organisation and a very active Rotaract Club that we can recall. Those clubs raised a considerable amount of money over the years of their existence and spent those funds on the betterment of the town as a whole. Not many current residents would remember the Lloyd Mann Gardens being the former Apex Park and there are many other projects that could offer a reminder of the efforts of past service clubs. It is something to think about for the future and it could also act as a reminder to residents of how important it would be to offer their services as volunteers to local organisations.

THE Burdekin Shire Council has made it clear that our current “Olympic” pool is going nowhere at the present time—but what of the future? At the start of the 2000’s, it was suggested in council at the time that changes to the two main swimming pools in the Shire involve the alteration of the length of

CELEBRATIONS were held in Ayr recently to recognise the fortieth anniversary of the construction of the Burdekin Theatre in Ayr and the forthcoming Burdekin Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festivities, which are being held entirely in Home Hill in May. In inviting the public to the Theatre celebration in February, the council urged people to “Join us for a special open day event like no other” for the 40-year anniversary of the theatre since its opening in November, 1982. However, there was no mention whatsoever of the re-development of the Burdekin Memorial Hall complex, which was part of the same cultural project in both towns. The Memorial Hall and School of Arts in Home Hill, which was originally built by the Home Hill community as a War Memorial, was “Re-opened” ahead of the Theatre in September, 1982 (as can be seen in our photos of the plaques recognising the occasion). At that time, the Council of the day had separate official opening events for each project—could it be that the current council is planning an event in Home Hill in the near future to recognise the other side of the cultural project? We are not holding our breath waiting to find out. Then

the Home Hill pool from 55 yards to 50 metres, to make records legal for competing swimmers, while the Ayr pool be reduced to 25 metres. A lot has happened since then within the pools but nothing with regard to changing the lengths—meaning it came as a surprise when all of a sudden, there were suggestions for the Home Hill pool to be reduced to 25 metres. To the layman, it would seem that reducing the Home Hill pool by .3 of a metre to make it a legal 50 metres would be a lot cheaper than reducing it to 25 metres. The council did not seem to have too much trouble finding a couple of million dollars for the water park in Ayr, so finding what would be needed to upgrade and improve the current pool while reducing it to 50 metres would seem reasonably easy?

WE commented in our February issue about the ongoing concerns about overgrown properties thanks to La Nina and a very wet, wet season, which also coincided with council gardeners being on annual holidays. However, it is pleasing to see those council workers back on the job as many of the overgrown areas are being cut down by council and contractors’



there are the plans for a celebration to launch the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival, with the Council issuing invitations to “network with sponsors, volunteers and event organisers” to express appreciation to them. With the event to be held entirely in Home Hill, why wouldn’t the council take the opportunity to support businesses on the south side of the river by holding it at one of the many venues available in Home Hill and use the town’s caterers and suppliers for once. It seems to be increasingly apparent that the council has a policy of hosting events in Ayr only, without giving other parts of the Shire an opportunity to become involved.

mowers. It got to the stage where the grass on the median in Eighth Avenue was growing so fast that it was starting to cover the cement in the drainage areas along the grassed median. Similarly, there were bikeways that were growing in to obstacle courses for cyclists as they tried to avoid large clumps of grass. Poison has now been applied to those bikeways and the grass is on its way out, although a shovel may help to remove some of the heavier dead grass along the routes, now that school is back in. Our wet season is certainly not over and mowers of all shapes and sizes will need to be on the job for some time to keep the town looking as respectable as possible.

THE 2023 Home Hill Harvest Festival may be the best part of a year away but organisers of the annual Ephemera display in the Lloyd Mann Gardens are already encouraging the community to start thinking about prospective entries for the annual display. It is amazing the ideas that have been put forward in the few short years that it has been held and with the artistic talent that there is locally, there will be many more to come.

- DAVID JACKSON

Chamber appoints new secretary

A NEW secretary has been elected to the management committee of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce, following the recent resignation of former secretary, Terry Cross. Mr Robert Antoniazzi was introduced to members at the Chamber's February networking event and even though he has already started, he will officially take over the position after being elected at the next Management Committee meeting in March.

Mr Cross was forced to vacate his position because of ill health and a forthcoming move to Townsville.

He was thanked for the way he efficiently carried out his role over the last couple of years by the members at the February event.

The Chamber is grateful for Mr Antoniazzi's rise to the position after searching for some time for a replacement for Mr Cross. The Chamber is also planning to officially thank the Management and administration staff of Wilmar's Inkerman Mill for their many years of sponsorship of the printing the *Home Hill News* for the benefit of the local community.

The last copies of the newsletter came off the Wilmar printers



Home Hill Chamber of Commerce treasurer, John Clarke (left) assists new secretary, Robert Antoniazzi to adapt to his new role, after the recent resignation of former secretary, Terry Cross.

after the February edition was completed and new arrangements have been made for the printing to be carried out from the March issue.

Readers are reminded that they can arrange for a copy of the monthly newsletter to be sent to their own email address for free each month or they can easily access the pages of the Home Hill News by logging on to the upgraded Home Hill Chamber of Commerce website. Hard copies of the newsletter are also available through Home Hill News & Coffee or Woods News in Ayr for a minimal charge of \$2 per copy. Advertising is also available in

the newsletter by contacting ddjacko@bigpond.com.

The guest speaker at the February networking event was Mr Michael Howie, who told of the part he plays, with his wife, Rose and their staff in the catering industry in the Burdekin.

The members who have attended the networking events have been involved in interesting discussions with the Chambers' guests and it would be pleasing to see more members (and their guests) take the opportunity to participate in the events when they take place on the third Wednesday of each month from 5.30pm at the Home Hill Community Sports Club.

Pool concerns

Continued from Page 1—
River community about reports that the council intended to close the pool in the area.

Cr McLaughlin took to social media to clarify the council's position in answer to the many reports being aired about the future of pools in the Shire.

She commented on the social media site – "Just a heads-up to address some concerns circulating on various social media sites about the future of the Home Hill Swimming Pool. At its ordinary meeting on February 14, councillors DID NOT accept the recommendation from the consultant to, as a long term plan, look to replace the existing 50.3m pool in Home Hill with a 25m pool. Councillors have requested that the consultant revise the recommendation to ensure that, in the distant future, when it comes to time to replace the pool and indeed all other pools in the Shire, the new pool be designed to meet the needs of local residents."

**ANOTHER EXCELLENT
DAY OF RACING
on the Home Hill Track
Saturday, April 1, 2023**

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

And the big one . . .

Saturday, May 20, 2023 Burdekin

**Growers
Race Day**



Pianist returns home for dual role

A YOUNG pianist, who grew up in the Burdekin District and developed his initial musical skills in this area, has returned for a dual purpose – to spend two weeks doing magical tricks on the synthesiser for the Shrek Musical, which was presented by the Burdekin Singers at the Burdekin Theatre recently; and also displaying his skills on foot pedals as well as his hands on the keyboard and other buttons.

Sam Row grew up in the Burdekin and Home Hill's own musical enthusiast, Marie Finn said she was "proud to have played a small part in his musical development all those years ago".

Growing up in rural north Queensland, Sam Row studied piano, saxophone and singing and was given opportunities to accompany singers, instrumentalists and ballet exams, as well as performing solos.

He also gained experience in many choirs and bands and enjoyed playing for many Burdekin Singers' music theatre productions in Ayr.

After leaving Ayr, Sam Row went on to study classical piano at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in 2013 and he also enjoyed singing with the St John's College Choral Scholars.

Since moving to Queanbeyan (near Canberra) in 2017, Sam Row has continued his classical piano studies with Colleen Rae-Gerrard and Colin Forbes and he has presented several piano recitals in Canberra.

He has also accompanied local choirs and soloists and teaches students of piano.

Sam Row has been warmly welcomed into the Canberra music theatre community as repetiteur

and keyboard player in performances for National Opera, Canberra Opera, Canberra Philharmonic, Free Rain Theatre Company and Queanbeyan Players.

He also enjoys performing a variety of beautiful and challenging music.

Now in demand in Canberra as an accompanist for choirs and musicals, while also being invited regularly to perform solo recital concerts, as well as teaching, Sam Row also took the opportunity to perform for free (or a donation to a charity) in front of a small audience at the Home Hill Choral Society's home in Eighth Avenue – The Vault.



Sam Row at his Piano Recital at The Vault in Home Hill with his former music teacher, Mrs Marie Finn

Mrs Finn said the short concert was a great chance to hear him play "these wonderful playful works here in the Burdekin", which included music by Mussorgsky, Piazolla and Hisaishi.

Sam Row took the opportunity at the end of his short performance to thank Mrs Marie Finn, those who had attended and members of the Home Hill Choral Society for allowing the use of The Vault and for their assistance.

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RSL leadership team elected

THE Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL concluded another year of activity at its recent 2023 Annual General Meeting, where all committee positions were filled as they moved into the year ahead.

President Richard Kelly presented his annual report to the meeting and took the opportunity to thank his committee “for a job well done” and other members for their attendance at meetings and working bees.

Referring to Anzac Day commemorations, Mr Kelly said the day “did not start out well” but a quick decision to hold the service in the Memorial Hall main hall resulted in a very successful Dawn Service and Cemetery Service.

He described the day as “one of the biggest Dawn Services we have held” with around 200 guests, while the Gunfire breakfast was well attended.

Mr Kelly also commented on the large number of students who participated from the four Home Hill Schools, the Burdekin Catholic High School and the Burdekin Christian College from Ayr. Home Hill State High School provided flag bearers for the march, while there were two members from the Townsville Air Force in attendance as well as Burdekin Air Cadets.

“Mr Paul Marano also loaned his restored jeeps to drive our old diggers around for our parade,” he reported.

Mr Kelly also highlighted the Cenotaph

Ceremony, which included addresses and wreath laying, after which participating school children were provided with refreshments, while the Home Hill Bakery provided for the adult participants.

He also reported on his attendance, with secretary Allan Petersen, at Anzac services at the four Home Hill Schools, where they gave short addresses and answered questions.

Mr Kelly told the annual meeting that the World War I grave plaques were nearly completed and it was hoped they would be finalised before Anzac Day this year.

He also reported that member Uli Liessmann was in the process of organising flag poles for either side of the proposed walkway through the park and Remembrance Day was “a huge success with a large crowd in attendance”.

Mr Kelly advised the meeting that young student, Eathan Pengelly had donated \$450 to the branch from his sales of poppies, rosemary and other merchandise and the Sub-Branch had presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

The Home Hill Sub-Branch had also participated in the Home Hill High School awards night, in which the branch presented a Certificate of Excellence to a Student selected by the school teachers for outstanding effort in different categories.

That successful student was Lucy Young in year seven.



Leaders of the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL after their recent Annual General Meeting are (from left, back) Bill Lewis (member), Uli Liessmann (vice-president), John Edwards (member) and Rick Young (welfare) and (front) Allan Petersen (secretary), Richard Kelly (president) and Ron Clive (treasurer)

Social media workshop for small business


SMALL business operators in the Burdekin district are being asked if they are being overwhelmed with social media? If you are, then you can accept an invitation to join in a Free social media workshop to be facilitated by social media strategist, Kellie Stephenson.

Among the subjects to be covered in the workshop will be the necessity of social media in business; the current set-up of social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram); All things content—what and when; Content calendar strategy; and

important key factors when using social media in your business.

The workshop is to be held over two sessions at the Burdekin Library in Ayr on Friday, March 10—Session One from 10am to 12pm and Session Two from 1pm to 3pm.

Even though the sessions are valued at over \$100 per person, registration is Free through Subsidisation by Smart Hub Burdekin and the Burdekin Shire Council. Further information is available from Eliza Lovell (4783 9800).

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Fortnightly visits to
Home Hill and Ayr

Female jockeys prominent in Home Hill Racing

WHILE wet weather may have dampened the enthusiasm of many of the regular patrons of the Burdekin Race Club for their February 18 meeting, the small crowd was still able to enjoy a competitive five-race program with close finishes in most of the events.

It was a big day for the Home Hill club with the delegates from the Leichhardt Area Clubs meeting at the local facilities before enjoying the day's local racing in between the rain squalls that blew across the grounds during the afternoon.

Recent improvement works on the track meant it was in top condition for the racing and the track condition was set at a "Good 4" for the start of the first event. However, the rain throughout the afternoon resulted in that condition being downgraded to a "Slow 5" and later to a "Soft 6". However, racing continued despite heavier falls in between the events. The first race, the Benchmark 50 Handicap over 1460 metres, provided some interesting points of interest for punters with six of the seven runners being entered by the John and Joshua Manzelmann Stables from Mackay, while six of the seven runners were ridden by female jockeys including five claiming apprentices—with one of those, Erin Molloy, having her first race ride.



Regular punters would have noticed a return of familiar colours, with third placed Dawn Strike wearing the pale blue and white stars that Tapiolas horses have carried for many years, after the family passed the colours on to trainer, Joanna Hassett following the death of long-time Home Hill racing stalwart, Ray Tapiolas.

Race one— Milky Rocket (Jade Doolan) first with Collombatti (Jenna Edwards) second and Dawn Strike (Nathan Day) third. Race two - Ashton Blair (Jeffrey Felix) first, Hit Snooze (Jenna Edwards) second and Miuron (Isabella Teh) third. Race three—The Lout (Isabella Teh), Our Addiction (Graham Kliese) second and Golden Athena (Jade Doolan) third. Race four—Mersey Girl (Pietro Romeo) first, Chilena (Colin Lennon) second with Mishani Platinum (Brooke Johnson) third. Race five - Mishani Jewel (Brooke Johnson) first, Line of Kings (Jeffrey Felix) second and River Daisy (Erin Molloy) in third place.

ABOVE—Horses parade before the start of the first event in Home Hill, with eventual winner, Milky Rocket (front) and (INSET) Milky Rocket (6) wins the first race ahead of Collombatti (1) with Dawn Strike (3) wearing the former Tapiolas colours in third place

Racing improvements continue

THE Burdekin Race Club is continuing to make improvements to its track and facilities as it leads into the 25-year celebrations for the Burdekin Growers Race Day on Saturday, May 20.

In recent months, extensive upgrading was carried out to the Home Hill track to improve the overall condition of the track.

As well, a new running rail has been installed around the circumference of the track, while the former running rail is now being installed around the training track inside the main race track.

That work is on top of the purchase of new starting stalls which have been brought into use at recent Home Hill Race meetings.

The Club has also recently purchased a new mower (pictured below), which will pick up all mown grass, which will then be used on race days to cover the road leading into the sporting fields in the centre of the Home Hill track.

The Burdekin Club has also decided to lock the railings in place on race days to prevent anyone entering or leaving the centre fields on those days, after the driver of a car was seen to remove the railings across the entry road at a previous race meeting while horses were still on the track – which could have been disastrous for both the driver and the horses and jockeys if an incident had occurred because of the actions of the driver.

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Popular Prawn Stop returns to Home Hill CBD

A POPULAR Prawn Shop that was previously situated adjacent to the Home Hill BP Service Station, has returned to the town—in the same area but in premises across the road.

Members of the Wiles Family had previously operated the seafood business until the premises they were in was sold, resulting in them having to close down. Owner of the new Prawn Shop at 35 Eighth Avenue (the former Old Bakery and a Fish and Chip business), Melissa Wiles said many people had enquired as to where “the prawn man” had gone and there seemed to be a lot of interest in the business re-opening. She had discussed it with

her father, Alan Wiles and decided that if he could help with buying the products and assist with setting up the new business, she would get the Prawn Shop started again—with help in the shop also from her mother, Frances, her partner, Billy Poyner and her children.

With all the family on board, Melissa Wiles went looking for a suitable premises and was successful in finding the Old Bakery premises and former fish and chip shop.

“We love it here,” she said. “It has a great shop frontage, it is spacious and it is easy for cars, caravans and trucks to pull up to park in the vicinity.”



LEFT—The family connection with the Prawn Stop, Frances, Melissa and Alan Wiles

Ms Wiles said the newly re-opened business had started with prawns in their freezers but as they go along, they would have fish, bugs and squid available.

They are also planning to have watermelon and ly-

chees in stock to go with the local Home Hill Honey that is already available to customers.

The Prawn Shop is open seven days per week, at varying times each day—check out the opening times each day below.

The Prawn



**35 Eighth Avenue,
Home Hill**
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(The former
Old Bakery and
Fish and Chip
Shop)



Current products available NOW—

Cooked medium prawns—\$15kg

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Opening Hours:

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8am to 5pm

Saturday and Sunday:

8am to 1pm

Artisans host visiting Mackay caravanners

THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. hosted a group of visiting Mackay Caravan Club members as part of the Club's visit to this district in February.

The Mackay Club regularly arranges weekend "Rallies" away for its members and included the Burdekin Artisans Home Hill Craft Shop as part of their two to three-day stay in the Burdekin on this occasion.

The members spent over two hours looking at the wide range of crafts made by the Artisans and were given demonstrations of some of the work undertaken by the local members including jewellery making and how to paint with alcohol ink.

The visitors were provided with morning tea during their stay before moving into the neighbouring Ashworth's Rock Shop where they inspected some of

the unique items on display. The Artisans have hosted other organisations on visits to their display in the past.



ABOVE _ Paula Matthews demonstrates jewellery making for some of the visitors



LEFT—Burdekin Artisans President Sandi Milani and organiser of the visit, Margaret Hoare

Applications now open for Community Fund grants

APPLICATIONS are now open through the Haughton Solar Farm Community Fund for eligible community groups and not-for-profit organisations residing in Home Hill, Ayr, Brandon, Clare, Dalbeg, Giru and Millaroo to apply for project funding.

Pacific Hydro, a 100 per cent Renewable energy provider, is giving back to the community through the fund, with community groups in the region encouraged to apply for funding grants of up to \$10,000 each from a pool of \$80,000.

Applications should be submitted between March 1 and 31, 2023, as The Haughton Fund aims to support projects that provide lasting benefits to local communities in at least one of six funding areas – education

and training, health and welfare, sport and recreation, arts and culture, environment and projects that support the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Haughton Solar Farm Community Fund provides long lasting social, economic and environmental value that goes beyond the life of the solar farm.

Pacific Hydro is also seeking nominations from community members interested in being part of the Haughton Solar Farm Community Fund Allocation Panel for 2023. Expressions of Interest will be open through March and April, 2023. Anyone interested in applying to the fund or being a part of the Fund Allocation Panel should go to the Haughton Solar Farm Community fund page at www.pacifichydro.com.au for more information.

Career start for 34 Wilmar Sugar apprentices

SEVENTEEN new apprentices have started their working careers with Wilmar Sugar's Burdekin Mills, as part of the 34 new apprentices who have started on the tools at the company's Queensland mills and bioethanol distillery.

The new recruits kicked off their trade training with a two-week Safe Start program in December, before beginning work at their respective sites.

Seventeen of the first-year apprentices are based at the four sugar mills owned by Wilmar in the Burdekin region), eight are based at Wilmar's two Herbert River area mills, four at Proserpine Mill, four at Plane Creek Mill and one at the Sarina BioEthanol Distillery.

Wilmar Sugar Training Superintendent, Daniel Shipard said six of the new recruits were women and nine were existing Wilmar employees, who had taken the opportunity to upskill by learning a trade.

"We offer apprenticeships in the fabricating, fitting and turning, diesel fitting and electrical trades," Mr Shipard said. "Our apprentices are well supported throughout their training and we're proud to turn out well-trained and well-rounded tradespeople with a strong focus on safety."

Burdekin fitting and turning apprentice, Jorja Grabs said she was excited to learn about the different machinery she would be working on. "I already feel that working at

Wilmar will give me the opportunity to be the best fitter and turner I can be, both throughout my apprenticeship and when I am trade qualified."

Wilmar Sugar is one of North Queensland's largest apprenticeship providers, with about 130 ap-

prentices employed at any one time.

The program boasts a completion rate of 98 per cent, making it one of the most successful in Australia, while Wilmar is employing a total of 49 first-year apprentices for its 2023 intake.



Burdekin fitting and turning apprentices, Daniel Howie and Jorja Grabs in the fitters workshop at Pioneer Mill

Memorial Kid's Bash growing in popularity



Joining in the handing over of the outboard motor prize were (from left) Annette Vassalini, Raymond Petersen (Peto Marine), winner Stacie Lovelady and Ron Scott and (front) Kaisen Petersen.



Many of the young participants took the opportunity to enjoy the animal petting farm

THE popularity of the 'Justin Roy Kids Bash' in memory of the late Justin Roy Scott, who tragically lost his life in flooding at Groper Creek several years ago has grown considerably, judging by the large crowd of children (and adults) who joined in several hours of fun and games at the Home Hill Race Course on Saturday, February 11.

The free fun day for participants of all ages took place under the shady trees at the race track, as the children joined in a variety of games and activities and numerous opportunities to take home some of the many prizes that were on offer throughout the afternoon, resulting in many proud young entrants – and even a number of parents – lining up for the trophy presentations at the end of the day's activities.

The activities included a Merry-go-round, Large Jumping Castle, Tommy the Trackless Train, an Animal Petting Farm, the Surf 'N Slide Waterslide, Fairy Floss and Slushies for the kids, Face Painting and Three-Legged Races in five age groups.

A major feature of the many activities was a Helicopter Lolly Drop with the children lining up with a variety of collection pieces including small packets through to large boxes to ensure they were able to take home all they could from under the lollies that were dropping from the sky.

Those people who supported the event did not go home hungry either with plenty of food available to fill the hunger pangs.

Organisers offered a raffle prize of a 6hp Mercury motor, donated by Peto Marine with all proceeds going to local charities.

The Family of Justin Scott offered their thanks to all of the sponsors and the community for supporting the day in memory of their much-loved and dearly missed Justin Roy Scott.

Prize winners during the afternoon included - Jog for Justin - 5 & Under: Toby Heatley 1, Rueben

Vass 2, Celine Bain 3; 6 and 7 Boys: River Vass 1, Flynn Levitt/ Marcus Paine 2, Nate Caspanello 3; 6 & 7 Girls: Evie Prescott 1, Milla Caspanello 2, Amity Dale 3; 8 & 9 Boys: Ryder Vass 1, Logan Alcorn 2, Landyn Woods 3; 8 & 9 Girls: Charlie Heatley 1, Lillea Levitt 2, Maddison Searle 3; 10 & 11 Boys: Sam Heatley 1, Noah Heatley 2, Jakobi Taylor 3; 10 & 11 Girls: Jasmin Erquiaga 2, Eden Godfrey 2, Amaya Hudson 3; 12 & up: Jake Erquiaga 1, Graham Harmsworth, 2, Ruby Prescott 3.

Three-Legged Race – 5 & Under: Ally Davenport, Harley Vass 1; Age 6 & 7: Flynn Levitt, Lucas Payne 1;

Age 8 & 9: Lillea Levitt, Nate Linton 1; Ages 10 & 11: Rowan Kelly, Sam Heatley 1; Ages 12 & up: Amia Caspanello, Ruby Prescott 1; Adult Male: John Ross Dale, Ben Prescott 1; Adult Female: Holly Davenport, Jodi Levitt 1.

Sack races - 5 & Under Boys: Hayden Vass 1; 5 & under Girls: Kiara Kerr; 6 & 7 Boys: Flynn Levitt 1; 6 & 7 Girls: Charlie Heatley 1; 8 & 9 Boys: Ryder Vass 1; 8 & 9 Girls: Kayley Rowe 1; 10 & 11 Boys: Sam Heatley 1; 10 & 11 Girls: Jazzmyn Erquiaga 1; 12 & up Boys: Beau Ellwood 1; 12 & up Girls: Ruby Prescott; Adult Male: Ben Caspanello 1; Adult Female: Sherryn Woods 1.

Colouring in competition - Rheanna Bain 1, Celine Bain 2, Daley Flanigan 3. The winner of the Mercury Motor was Stacie Lovelady. The winner of the 9l Fridge Freezer was Darby Amos. Sponsors of the Kids Bash were Truenorth Interiors Pty Ltd; Truenorth Equipment Hire, Peto Marine; Caspanello Family; Burdekin Communications/Jaycar; Vass Engineering; Next Gen; Home Hill News & Coffee; Crown Hotel; Amcal' The Corner Co; Mark Hudson Engineering & Welding; Amusements Plus.

The proceeds from the raffle for the motor were donated to VMR Burdekin; The bar proceeds went to the Royal Flying Doctor Service; and the proceeds from the raffle went to the SES Burdekin



ABOVE— Special thanks went to the major sponsors of the Justin Roy Kids Bash, Helen and Ron Scott (centre) pictured with Leanne (left) and Ricky Gudge.

LEFT—Some of the large number of children present at the event as they waited for lollies of all shapes and sizes to rain down on them from the helicopter



Prostate Cancer Luncheon

A PROSTATE Cancer Luncheon is being planned for the Burdekin district to "enhance much-needed funds towards Cancer Research, which can benefit each and every one of us". Entitled "Do It For Cancer", the luncheon will be held at Coutts Commercial Hotel in Queen Street Ayr, on Saturday, April 1, commencing at 11.30am. Although the luncheon is called a Prostate Cancer Luncheon, with all of the profits going to the Cancer Council Queensland, Ladies are also welcome to attend and be part of the event. Previously held in 2021, the luncheon was supported by the Cancer Council

Queensland and resulted in over \$3000 being raised from the 60 people who attended, which was a great outcome.

Already, the 2023 Luncheon has attracted someone's support with a donation of over \$2000. Guest speakers at this fundraising event will include Dr Kiren Hazratwala, an Urologist Surgeon from Townsville, who will present a very informative talk about all areas of Prostate Cancer, as well as a representative from the Cancer Council Queensland Townsville Branch. The opportunity will be provided for questions to be asked by those attending while experiences will be welcome to be shared.

Lucky door prizes will be on offer, while there will also be Auctions on the program along with "lots of fun". Entry to the fundraising event cost is at a very low \$5 per person, although larger donations will be very welcome. The Luncheon will be an extra cost for those attending.

The menu for the event will be available for perusal shortly on the "Prostate Cancer Luncheon" Facebook Page. To book for the fundraiser, prospective attendees should phone Coutts Commercial Hotel (4783 1999). Further enquiries should be directed to Mike on 0400 696 386

Orchid Society change

A SPECIAL general meeting was held as part of the February meeting of the Ayr and District Orchid and Allied Plant Society (ADOAPS) for the purpose of changing the meeting time and date. It was agreed that ADOAPS would meet at the CWA Hall in Ayr on the first Sunday of the month, starting at 2 pm. The Society hopes the change will be more convenient for folks of the Lower Burdekin who have an interest in orchids, greenhouse plants and gardening in general. The topic for discussion for the first day-time meeting will be on fertilisers. Attendees have been requested to take a small plate of biscuits or cake as part of the Society's tea and coffee break.



Parliament update

AS I write this, the first sitting of Parliament for 2023 is about to take place and I am expecting debate on legislation around youth crime will be to the fore.

The LNP want to see stronger laws in place to protect our communities and hold these young offenders to account. That starts with early intervention and allowing young offenders to be charged with breach of bail. The way I see it, if you have committed an offence and a magistrate has granted you bail with specific conditions you need to follow, that should be treated as a privilege to be respected. Too often, we are seeing repeat offenders thumb their noses at the law while on bail and not only disobey these conditions but go on to re-offend.

Ensuring every child can make the most of their school day

IT IS great to see schools back in action and ready to go for another busy year of learning. Recently, I was able to catch up with the team from Fuel for Schools and present a donation of 75 pencil case packs for students in schools across the Burdekin Electorate. The team at Fuel for Schools do a fantastic job at ensuring our kids are able to make the most out of their school day.

Flood resilience should be a must for NQ Roads

Recently we saw the RACQ release it's 2022 Unroadworthy Roads Survey report and while it wouldn't come as a surprise to many of us, the Bruce Highway sat comfortably in first place in the Top 10. While there were issues highlighted right along the Bruce Highway, concerns around the stretch of road from the intersection of Cape Cleveland Road to the intersection of Zinc Road and, of course, issues around Bowen were raised in the report.

Recently, during significant wet weather in the Bowen area, we witnessed roadworks on the Bruce Highway again go under water, blocking the highway and causing massive delays to motorists.

Despite a \$22million price tag, the road was only ever going to be widened which, as we have seen, is far short of what is needed and that is why I have called on the state government to make the most of a bad situation and commit to re-evaluating the works to include flood resilience.

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

Until next time, stay safe and well.

- Dale

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Uli Liessmann comments . .

THINGS are really looking up as the Home Hill BP servo is getting a major facelift.



I hope it's not only the forecourt that is getting the makeover, as the building could use a coat of paint, not to mention some pigeon barriers on the roof.

THE old Commercial Hotel (pictured) is also getting a major upgrade to turn it into workers accommodation



I DO not want to be pushy, but after six years, how about spending some money on the Comfort Stop mosaic water feature, which is in a terrible condition (pictured)? Please don't say it will be done as soon some funding is available or worse still, it will need to be inspected. I was there with the so-called inspectors years ago, so you will have to get another excuse.

THE Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch has just held its annual general meeting, which was well attended with all positions filled easily. Should you want to join just as a member—no work involved—please get in touch, as there is always room for another member with similar interests.



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

GOOD news is that the 2023 Harvest Festival Ephemera is on again and the committee is working to make this a big year for larger installations—with your help, of course. Get into the act and produce something



to be proud off. Build an installation to be proud off and everyone wants, or better still, talks about it. Here is your chance to become famous with the right piece of installation. Remember, anything goes, so give it a go.

It is amazing the ideas that have been produced for the Ephemera entries over the years—Just like this one, entitled “The Honey Hive”, produced by the children of the Burdekin Art Society classes.

WHILE I am on the band wagon, the Home Hill Chamber is looking for a lady or some ladies to sit on the management committee for an hour and a half per month. The Chamber needs more new input and another pair of eyes and ideas from the female perspective .Your HELP is needed!

I WAS reading in a government article about the right to speak out in support of the local community without being penalised or labelled negative. I believe it is our right and duty to voice and express our view on current issues concerning our town, the ratepayer and general public, as our opinions matter.

HERE is a quote by Amitabh Bachchan (you might know him because I don't). A politician promises a bridge even when there is no river.

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

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 djacko@bigpond.com or secretary@homehillchamber.com.au