

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 89, May, 2023

(First published April, 2015)

Email:
FREE
Hard copy
\$2



Home Hill's Merry Month of May

WELCOME to Home Hill's Merry month of May – over four weeks of entertainment and events that provide for the enjoyment of all ages through arts and crafts activities as well as on the sporting fields.

SUGAR BOWL TENNIS –

As this issue of *The Home Hill News* is being prepared for printing, the annual Home Hill Tennis Association Sugar Bowl Tournament is coming to a close, with large numbers of people from as far away as Brisbane and Mareeba and many northern towns in between having converged on the town for the popular tournament, which has been more than 40 years in the making.

Turn to Page 9 for all the winners.

COWBOYS GIVE-AWAYS AT THE COMFORT STOP –

THE North Queensland Cowboys have provided the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce with a large number of marketing products to give away to school children in the town. The donation of products follows questions to the North Queensland

Rugby League Club about why Home Hill was not included in their promotional activities, such as one in which residents of 24 towns across the north, many of them smaller than Home Hill, could win an opportunity to participate in events at the opening game of this season. Home Hill was also ignored when the NRL Premiership Trophy toured all of North Queensland and even further – but did not appear in Home Hill. The donated products will be given away at the Comfort Stop on Saturday morning, May 6 along with other activities including the raffle of a football signed by Cowboys players and market stalls.

Turn to page 4 for full details.

BURDEKIN CRAFT SPECTACULAR–

The Burdekin Uniting Church's Craft Spectacular is again to be held at its original May date on Saturday, May 13, after successfully returning to the Burdekin Memorial Hall in December 2022. The Craft Spectacular was forced to cease its displays during the extended COVID Pandemic but the crowds were back when numerous

craft stalls filled the hall and drew large numbers of people from throughout North Queensland in December. There will be much to see and do when the Craft Spectacular is held on Saturday, May 13. Any enquiries relevant to the Craft Spectacular should be directed to Judy Berryman (0428 877 883). Turn to Page 7 for the full story.

BURDEKIN GROWERS RACE DAY— BEERS AND CHEERS TO 25 YEARS—

ONE of the biggest regional race meetings around the nation will take place on the Home Hill track on Saturday, May 20 when the Burdekin Race Club hosts its annual Burdekin Growers Race Day. There will be at least six races during the afternoon, highlighted by the running of the Carlton & United Breweries Burdekin Cup at 4.30pm over 1830 metres, while tens of thousands of prizes will be given away in the fashions stakes that draws fashionistas from all over North Queensland.

Turn to page 7 for your racing news

SWEET DAYS, HOT NIGHTS FESTIVAL including the AUSTRALIAN HAND CANE CUTTING CHAMPIONSHIPS -

TWO Major events over two days – the Burdekin Cultural Fair on Friday evening, May 26 featuring the First Cane Fire of the 2023 sugar crushing season; and the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships on Saturday, May 27. Both events will take place at the former Home Hill Showgrounds with free entry into a unique opportunity to see activities that will not be seen anywhere else around the nation.

Turn to page 6 for more information

SWEET DAYS, HOT NIGHTS BOWLS EXTRAVAGANZA -

THE Home Hill Community Sports Club is adding to the feast of entertainment in Home Hill as they host their bowls extravaganza on their Club Bowling Green. To be held on Sunday, May 28 in conjunction with the Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival, the free bowling event commences with registrations by bowlers from 12.30pm ahead of the first session of bowls from 1pm ahead of a Sausage Sizzle from 5.30 before the Evening Session of bowls commences at 6.30pm.

Turn to page 3 for more information

Anzac commemoration ceremonies

THE Home Hill community has once again remembered those who fought and died for our freedom as they turned out in large numbers at the various commemoration ceremonies that took place in the town on Anzac Day, Tuesday, April 25.

From the Dawn Service through to the Main Service at the Cenotaph in the Home Hill Park, all sections of the community were represented from Kindergarten pupils through to the older residents who were of an age to have been eligible to have participated in the many conflicts that have taken place around the world, where Australian Servicemen and Women have fought and died. The one ceremony that is growing every year in numbers of participants is the Dawn Service, with large numbers of people, from individuals through to representatives of all local Schools and organisations filling Ninth Avenue in front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall as they remembered those who had given their lives in service to their country in past conflicts. **Continued on Page 12—**



Guest speakers lined up to address the Anzac Day Cenotaph Service were (from left) Padre Andrew Ballin, Home Hill High School captain, Martina Bojack, Mayor Lyn McLaughlin, Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Willcox, State Member for Burdekin Dale Last, Saluting Officer Flt Lt Mark Walters and Flt Sgt Darren Maxted

THE busy month of May is ahead of everyone in the Home Hill community and wider afield, as every weekend and many days in between throughout the month are filled with events to entertain the population. From the Home Hill Tennis Association's long-standing Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament, which was nearing completion as this edition of *The Home Hill News* was being printed, through to the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival at the former Home Hill Showgrounds near the end of the month, there will be something for all ages to enjoy. There is no doubt our town will be attracting large numbers of tourists to stay and watch activities that will be unique to them—such as the hand cane cutting that even many amongst our own local population would not have seen in their lifetime. Hopefully, its success will help organisers to think again about holding this year's program every two years—it is a novelty that people coming to town in the years in between will miss out on if they do not have the opportunity to watch the events. The Local Government election next year may be the only way to change council's views on making this year's program an annual event again. In the meantime, we would also hope that the council puts a lot of time into improving the outlook of Home Hill's Central Business District to present a glowing face to the visitors. Maybe the council could replicate what has been done in the Ayr CBD with signage, updated seating and rubbish bins, hanging plants, encouraging absent landlords to improve empty buildings and mow overgrown allotments etc—all of which could provide a pleasant welcome to visitors. Probably too late for this year—maybe in 2024?

WORD of mouth has always been the best advertisement for the popularity of Home Hill's Comfort Stop and a recent message that was passed on to us highlights how much benefit the Comfort Stop is to the town and how many visitors hear about it on social media. This message came through

The finer points of Home Hill . .

HOW good was it to see so many young children involved in the Anzac Day commemorations ceremonies in Home Hill on Tuesday, April 25. From the early start at the Dawn Service through to the street parade and Cenotaph commemoration services, there were children holding the hands of parents, siblings and teachers as they lined up to play their part in learning what Anzac Day is all about and the memories that they started to gather of the sacrifices that were made by tens of thousands of Australian men and women, who paid the supreme sacrifice in conflicts around the world from before and after Gallipoli to ensure we can enjoy the freedoms we have while living in this country. That was particularly evident from a display of "Postcards of Honour" at the Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch's "Gunfire Breakfast" and after the



Cenotaph service—Post Cards filled out by young participants to show what they are thinking about what Anzac Day is all about. Some of the responses on the cards drew emotional responses when families realised the moving comments were from their own youthful family members. The large school groups also added to the parade and the huge shade trees in the park near the cenotaph ensured the young participants were able to sit comfortably out of the sun during the ceremonies. Overall, it was a credit to the members of the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL and the young children themselves that the services were completed successfully. After all, it will be these children who could be leading the services in the future, although all hopes will be that they can undertake such tasks without having to go through the many conflicts that their forebears had to suffer through.

in April, which could help to bring more visitors to town for events such as the first fire and hand cane cutting—"YIPPEE, I found a good 48 hours free rest area and the place is called the Home Hill Comfort Stop and it is about 100km from Townsville down the A1 in Queensland. The area is for self contained caravans, motor homes and camper vans and the place where you park is Railway Avenue, the street behind the Comfort Stop sign on the main highway." The report goes on to provide details of the Comfort Stop, parking and everything else associated with the area—who needs paid advertising when reports like that are circulated nationwide? Such reports have been promoting the Comfort Stop since it was first opened and will continue to do so.

THE Home Hill News continues to receive requests for Ayr news to be included in our pages, especially with more people on the northern side of the river being added to our circulation numbers. The newsletter was started because Home Hill was being ignored (and still is) by other media and we have grown from two pages originally to 12 and more over our six years. The request to add Ayr news has grown since most regional newspapers were closed down,

much to the detriment of all regional communities. Our biggest problem is time in writing the stories and space to get all the Home Hill news in—which we will always give preference to. However, we have accepted news from the Ayr side of the river, but contributors of those items should provide all the necessary information (with JPG photos attached as well) in note form and we will write the article for publication. It is important that any items are sent in by people in authority with the organisation concerned and phone numbers and email addresses should be attached. Who knows, if we get enough contributions, we may even be able to start up a specific Ayr page. Any events where an entrance fee is charged should be accompanied by relevant advertising.

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce wants your views on whether it should change its name. Its lead organisation, the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry is changing to Business Queensland. The Chamber would like the community's views on a name that covers what the Chamber actually does—which is looking after the interests of the business sector and the Home Hill community as a whole. Send your views in to the Chamber of Commerce website. - DAVID JACKSON

Bowls extravaganza

HOME HILL's busy month of May now has an even bigger calendar of events, with the Home Hill Community Sports Club Inc. adding a Bowls Extravaganza to its program ahead of the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival at the former Home Hill Showgrounds.

Members of the Sports Club have issued an invitation to local residents to "Come along for a friendly fun time trying your hand at the ever-popular Home Hill Sweet Days Hot Nights Bowls Extravaganza".

The Extravaganza will take place in two sessions on their bowling green at 87 Ninth Avenue on Sunday, May 28, 2023 – an Afternoon Session commencing at 1pm and an Evening Session at 6.30pm - with the two separated by a Sausage Sizzle from 5.30pm.

The Bowls Extravaganza has been described as "a fun event for the whole family - or get together a group of work mates". Participants can enter their own team "which is great" or the Sports Club will fit prospective bowlers in with other entrants to make up a team.

"Bring your own woods, otherwise the club has bowls you are able to borrow," a club spokesperson said. "For anyone who needs a little tuition, there is sure to be a club member available to help." The afternoon session will start at 1pm or join everyone else for a chat and the sausage sizzle at 5.30pm.

The evening session will start at 6.30pm and a Licensed Bar will be available.

Recognition for Piper's service

THE Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL has honoured the continuing service of an Ayr and Lower Burdekin Caledonian Pipe Band member, who has been performing at Anzac Services in the town since 1982. RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly (left) made the surprise presentation to Piper Roy Page during the 'Gunfire Breakfast' held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall early in the Services on Anzac Day.

Mr Kelly said Roy Page had been turning up to the Dawn Service and Main Parade in Home Hill for many years to play 'The Lament' and any other requirements for Anzac Day. Accepting the award of a boxed display of Australian Military Forces badges, Mr Page told those present at the Breakfast that he had taken over from the late Piper Rod McDonald in 1982 and had been continuing in the role ever since. Mr Page has been a regular attendee at the Dawn Service, the Cemetery Parade and the Main Parade and Cenotaph Service.



Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly (left) presented a boxed display of Australian Military Forces badges to long-servicing Anzac Day Piper, Roy Page.

Set the date **NOW** for the biggest day of entertainment for the year . . .

The Burdekin Growers Race Day

Saturday, May 20, 2023

- **Thousands of dollars in prizes to be given away during the afternoon**
- * **Fashions on the Field**
- * **Produce Challenge**
- **Fruit and Vegetable Giveaway**
- * **Entertainment by "Hardwired"**
- * **Superbets**



Six local races during the afternoon plus southern races, the TAB in operation as well as local bookmakers and a range of food options available throughout the day

Cowboys' give-aways at Comfort Stop

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce will host a morning of Cowboys' give-aways at the Home Hill Comfort Stop on Saturday, May 6, at which the focus will be on young supporters of the North Queensland Cowboys, who will benefit from the handing out of a quantity of donated supporters gear that the Cowboys Club has donated to the Chamber.

The Cowboys gear was provided after Chamber President, David Jackson contacted the North Queensland Cowboys to query why Home Hill was not included in a promotion in which residents of 24 towns across the north, many of them smaller than Home Hill, could win an opportunity to participate in events at the opening game of the season.

It was not the first time that Home Hill was ignored in Cowboys promotions, including when they won the Premiership in 2015 when the Premiership trophy was taken to most towns in the north – but not Home Hill.

The Cowboys were positive in their response, saying they understood



The donated products from the Cowboys

how "it would be disappointing having Home Hill miss out on being involved in the activity".

Their promotional team explained that, "due to resources, the towns selected to be included were largely based on places where our staff were travelling to within the timeframe, which is why Ayr was included". The Cowboys said "Home Hill is important to us, however and we regularly visit throughout the year to do school visits at both schools in the town".

Subsequently, Mr Jackson was surprised to receive a large package containing Cowboys promotional ma-

terial to be given away to the youth of the town who were missing out on opportunities extended to other towns in the north.

That material includes two different types of Cowboys carry-bags, Cowboys caps, lanyards and frisbees, as well as a signed football, which will be raffled that day to find a winner.

As a result, the Chamber has planned to host the give-away morning at the town's Comfort Stop on Saturday, May 6 from 8am through to 12 noon, during which the Cowboys material will be given away from about 10am.

Local residents who would like to set up a stall at the Comfort Stop for the morning to sell products of their own making from 8am onwards can do so at a cost of \$10 per stall. Participating stall operators should provide their own tables and tents if required.

Anyone wishing to participate should contact David Jackson (ddjacko@bigpond.com) or phone 0417 731 089) or Chamber secretary, Robert Antoniazzi (secretary@homehillchamber.com.au) to register by Friday, May 6.

Callan Fencing Services

All styles—all service and repairs

We will beat any genuine written quote by 10%

**PRESSURE
CLEANING**

Pensioner Discounts

**MOWING
SERVICES**

FREE Quotes

No job too big or too small

Call Allan—0428 006 575
Over 30 years experience



Wilmar's Manager, Community Relations and Internal Communication, Kylie Newman (centre) accepted the appreciation certificate from Home Hill Chamber of Commerce President, David Jackson (left) and Vice President Uli Liessmann.

Chamber 'thanks' to Wilmar

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has offered its sincere thanks to Wilmar Sugar's Inkerman Mill for their sponsorship of the printing of *The Home Hill News* for almost six years, with the presentation of a certificate of thanks to their Manager, Community Relations and Internal Communication, Kylie Newman at the Chamber's April networking meeting. The administration staff at Inkerman Mill only recently stopped printing the town's newsletter, after regularly carrying out the task on a monthly basis over the length of the sponsorship.

When *The Home Hill News* was first published in 2015, it offered only two pages of local news at a time when Home Hill was completely ignored by other media – except when it was negative reports involving the community.

The first few issues were printed on private photocopiers until there was a problem that looked like curtailing the publication and especially the use of colour.

When that information was provided to Wilmar's Kylie Newman, she indicated that Inkerman Mill would be happy to undertake the printing – and

that they have done for 11 of the 12 months each year (no publication in January each year) as it has grown to up to 10 or 12 pages in each issue.

While such sponsorships normally only last for a year or two, the Home Hill Chamber was lucky for it to continue through until February of this year, when Wilmar printed its final issue of the newsletter.

The printing is now being carried out on the Burdekin Race Club's photocopiers, although the actual numbers of hard copies have been reduced from 600 to 300 each issue, as more readers register to receive their copy by email.

While readers are encouraged to make use of the availability of the newsletter by email, the Chamber will continue to offer a printed copy at a price of \$2 through newsagents in Home Hill and Ayr for those people who do not have the benefit of a home computer.

Presenting a certificate to Mrs Newman, Chamber President David Jackson expressed their gratitude to the company for their support and to their administration staff who had spent many hours each month producing *The Home Hill News* in full colour to ensure the town's news was covered.

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



But Jesus looked at them and said, with man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.

- Matthew 19, 26

Jimmy's Handyman & Fencing Service

- Painting
- Tiling
- Fencing
- Lawn & Garden Service
- Repairs & Maintenance

ABN: 67 053 764 135

Quality Work.....
Affordable Prices....



Free Quotes Ph: 0439 676 212

CORES™ Queensland
Community Response to Eliminating Suicide



Suicide Intervention Training

Pick up the early warning signs, know what to say, what to do and where to go for help.

The training will provide participants with the essential skills to identify and respond to a person at risk of suicide, and:

- To recognise the early warning signs of suicide
- To learn how to support a person at risk to access ready available services
- To promote help-seeking behaviour before a crisis occurs
- Each participant will learn to identify their own self-care strategies.

Please note this is not a crisis service.

Where: Burdekin Neighbourhood Centre
40 Chippendale Street, Ayr, 4807

Cost: Free (Please bring your own lunch)

When: Friday 12 May 2023

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Enquiries: adminqld@kentishrc.com.au

Phone: 0448 894 525

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3Z5y92V>

"By the Community For The Community"



@CORESQueensland

Supported by
phn
NORTHERN QUEENSLAND
An Australian Government Initiative



@CORES_qld

Assistance for “Going Batty”

RESIDENTS of Home Hill who are being “driven batty” by the current colony of flying foxes in Kidby's Gully, which are causing significant concern to residents in the vicinity, may be able to find out how to gain financial assistance towards solving their problems by following a “Flying Fox Roost Residents on offer by the Townsville City Council to their ratepayers. The bat problem was raised in the April edition of *The Home Hill News* by State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, who, in his regular column, indicated that he had again written to the Burdekin Shire Council regarding the “serious health concern” caused by bats. “I was advised by council that its department was working on a dispersal plan, which needed to be formulated and costed before the issue could be further considered,” Mr Last advised. Under the city program, Towns-

ville residents are able to apply for up to \$3000 through the City Council to assist with impacts associated with the seasonal influx of flying-fox populations. Guidelines to the program advise that it assists impacted residents to alleviate the negative impacts to their property (eg increased noise and damage caused by droppings), associated with the influx of the bats. Eligible residents under the program are those who live within 200 metres of a flying fox roost; the flying foxes must have been present in the roost for at least six months; there must be a minimum of 1000 flying foxes present in the roost; and the roost must consist of species other than the Little Red Flying Fox due to their nomadic nature. Mr Last has assured residents that the issue will not be one that he will let lie .



Action in a previous Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships at the former Home Hill Showgrounds

First Cane Fire at Cultural Fair

THE Merry Month of May entertainment in Home Hill nears its conclusion on Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27 when the Burdekin Cultural Fair, featuring the “First Cane Fire” of the season on Friday night, May 26, along with a return to the earliest days of cane cutting when a cane knife was the tool used to help remove the crop from the field, as the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships are held on Saturday, May 27 - will be the highlights of the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival. Held at the former Home Hill Showgrounds, the two events are expected to draw large crowds for the unique events that are not normally seen anywhere else around the nation. The Burdekin Cultural Fair, with the First Cane Fire of the coming crushing season the main feature, will take place from 5pm to 11pm on the Friday night, with gates opening at 5.30pm and entry to the grounds free of charge. The entertainment will feature live music from Day-break, Molly Casey and Olivia Licciardello and Perform Music, while a long list of cultural performances will take place including Aboriginal and

Torres Strait performers, Highland Dancers, Greek Dancers and Greek Plate Smashing, Belly Dancers and Cuban Salsa Dancers, Indian Dancers and Tango Dancers. The Cultural Fair will also include a drum circle, free face painting and Henna Tattoos and other free children's activities and crafts. The Gates will open to the showgrounds at 10.30am on Saturday, May 27 for The Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships with a \$5 entry for adults (18+). Nominations for the hand cane cutting will open at 10am with a “Cutters Muster” from 10.30am, where people of all ages and backgrounds can learn the art of cane cutting. The official opening of the championships will take place at 11am before the first of the competitions start at 11.15am. A total of eight competitions will take place through to 3pm, with the champions in each section claiming their trophies from 3.30pm. Other entertainment during the day will include a live band on stage and a variety of other activities including children's rides and face painting.

HOME HILL
Community
Sports Club Inc

JOIN US FOR A
FREE
Sweet Days Hot Nights
BOWLS
Extravaganza

SUNDAY
28 MAY 2023

87 NINTH AVENUE
HOME HILL

TURN UP TO REGISTER AT 12.30PM
STARTS AT 1PM

WWW.HHCSC.AU
PH: 0468 313 115

TAB racing ahead on Home Hill track

THE Burdekin Race Club is continuing to provide for the lovers of "The Sport of Kings", with their program involving hosting a meeting at least monthly from the beginning of 2023 through to August, when they will feature a TAB meeting for the first time locally in many years.

The Burdekin Growers Race meeting is on Saturday, May 20, followed by a meeting on Saturday, June 17 (previously planned for Charters Towers), another Home Hill meeting on Saturday, July 15 and then the TAB meeting, with a seven-event program on Thursday, August 31.

The Burdekin Club's Derby Day meeting will follow at the beginning of November.

With increasing race meetings and more races attracting extra nominations, the club was told by their president that he had completed a survey about training and stabling



Burdekin Race Club president, Ricky Gudge

facilities at their track, with questions about whether they could utilise more stables and training commodities.

Mr Gudge said that currently, all their stables were full. "Who knows, with extra services, we could have even more horses training here," he commented.

The club's most recent meeting was held on Saturday, April 1, with a five-event program described by Mr Gudge as "a good

day with a crowd better than I expected".

He said racing on the day was tight, but it was not a good day for the bookies, with a number of favourites getting up, while a meat tray raffle conducted by the club drew good support from patrons.

With the Burdekin Growers Race Meeting, the club's biggest of the year, only three weeks away, Mr Gudge said they would appreciate assistance from any volunteers who could lend a hand with preparations, as he thanked those who had attended a recent working bee.

The recently-purchased PVC rail to join up to their aluminium rail was "a big worry off our list and now makes our training track compliant", he commented, while describing the project as "a bit of a win for our club" with the original price being around \$40,000,

while going through Racing Queensland allowed them to bring it back to around \$32,000 together with another deduction of \$2000 because of other "issues" the club had.

The Race Club's April meeting was told that ticket sales for the May meeting were progressing well "with the elite marquee already sold out" and some others with only limited tickets left.

Sponsorship was also well supported through the efforts of their "treasurer/secretary/promotions lady" with the total surpassing previous years, while the club will be value-adding to the racing with a total of \$17,500 this year, an amount that has been covered by sponsorship.

The meeting was told that with prizes and give-aways, it was estimated that they would be offering over \$100,000 to be won at the race meeting.

Crafts to fill Memorial Hall

THE Burdekin Craft Spectacular will return to the Burdekin Memorial Hall, Home Hill on Saturday, May 13 providing an ideal opportunity for residents seeking novel gifts for Mother's Day celebrations the following day.

Open to the public from 9am to 2pm with an entry fee of only \$2 per person and group bookings of 10 or more costing \$10 for each group (including morning tea), the Craft Spectacular will offer a huge array of stalls showcasing the amazing talent of many residents of the Burdekin and surrounding districts. (Group booking must be made in advance, with children under 13 being free of charge.)

Free demonstrations will take place throughout the day, including a Children's Treasure Hunt, with each participating child receiving a prize, while food will

be available in the Dining Room, with the ever popular High tea trolley tempting patrons with some very special treats. A Cake stall will be operating on the day as well.

The Burdekin Craft Spectacular is also the perfect place to obtain that Mother's Day gift or to get a gift for a special friend – or even something special for yourself.

Adults and children have also been encouraged to get creative and enter the Craft Spectacular's competition to hand make a "Childhood Treasure".

The entry fee is \$2 and the "treasures", which will be on display, will be judged by the public with a gold coin donation.

Any enquires should be directed by email to burdekincraftspectacular@gmail.com or by phoning Judy Berryman on (0428 877 883).

JOIN US

Do you want a career where you can...
Make a Difference?

Our Nurses and Caregivers are at the heart of what we do.

Are you interested in a rewarding role where you'll help people live their best life?

Enjoy a flexible schedule, receive ongoing training and support, while being recognised for the important work that you do.

To Learn More Scan Me!

For more information, get in touch. www.nursenextdoor.com.au/jobs

An Ugly Duckling named Namdrae

by Ricky Gudge

HORSE racing stories, which have been disseminated over the years, are a common subject amongst even the most apathetic of people - owners, trainers, jockeys and patrons who all have their favourites.

This story is one of the best of mine and to the best of my knowledge and from what I have been informed, Home Hill has only ever had one Townsville Cup winner.

For those of you who do not understand the significance of winning this race, I would like to tell you that the Townsville Cup would stand as one of the most prestigious races in Queensland, outside of the Brisbane area.

In 1971, Humphrey Heatley bred a foal by the stallion, Sampan on Byrne Valley station.

He was broken in by a bloke named Roy Dennis, the son of a good friend of George Eardman, who originally hailed from Ravenswood and worked for Humphrey.

The foal showed very limited ability, in fact it was flat out picking his feet up and would constantly trip on a clump of grass.

Disillusioned, Humphrey sold the horse to George, who then syndicated the ownership between himself, Lenny Piva and Tom Bonke.

They needed a name for the horse (remember George's last name - Eardman) and they decided to reverse those letters resulting in its registration as Namdrae.

Even under the experienced eye of one of North Queensland's top trainers, Gilbert Bow, to say that Namdrae had developed into a physical specimen would have been a gross over-statement - he was small in stature and had the look of a brumby.

He certainly did not set the track alight and after a few prepara-



Namdrae winning a 1000 metre event on the Cluden track in Townsville

tions, he had not even won his maiden, with more money going out then what was coming in.

Tom Bonke decided he wanted out of this donkey. Peter Tapiolas, a well known horse trainer from Home Hill, took on Tom's share and began the training of Namdrae.

Even with the wealth of experience Peter had, he never would have expected what was about to unfold.

Namdrae took to the open-style stabling by the lily-padded lagoons on the Tapiolas farm like a duck to water.

Namdrae had very little early pace, so Peter, with the riding skills of one of North Queensland's best jockeys, Billy Cullen, decided to ride him as cold as a mother-in-law's kiss and it was then that Peter realised he may have discovered the secret to this nag . . . this horse, that was flat out walking in a straight line, won six straight under Peter's guidance.

The north's racing carnival was under way, so on a Saturday in July, 1975, Peter entered Namdrae in North Queensland's top sprint, the Cleveland Bay Handicap.

He was beaten a nose, so Peter entered him in the Cluden Stakes over 1400 metres on the following Monday - and Namdrae won.

Showing no ill-effects of having two starts in two days, Peter elected to start him in the Townsville Cup over 2060 metres the coming Saturday.

Forty-to-one was the early book-makers' quote and many so-called experts said he had no chance, even Cluden race caller Graham Sewell on the radio questioned the thoughts of the horses' connections.

You know there are times when negative comments can bite you on the backside . . . this was one of those times.

Namdrae started like normal, dropping to the tail of the field and was still stone motherless last on the home turn. With Billy Cullen's urgings, Namdrae was pulled to the centre of the track and released a finishing burst not often seen at Cluden. He won by al-

most three lengths going away from them.

The winner's cheque was \$10,000, which, when put into perspective, was well and truly enough to buy a house in Home Hill.

I remember going the races as a very young lad with Peter's youngest son, Ross and seeing Namdrae win again at Cluden.

However, I am unsure what ever happened to this little champion.

He more than likely lived out his days on the Tapiolas cattle property enjoying a well-deserved rest.

I suppose that old saying, don't judge a book by its cover could not be truer for this wonderful little horse.



WEEKLY PROGRAM

- Monday** ▶ Adult Fixtures
7-8:45pm
Contact Kate Casswell | 0447384441
- Tuesday** ▶ Pickleball
7-8:15pm
Contact Kate Casswell | 0447384441
- Wednesday** ▶ Coaching, Cardio & Match Play
3:30pm onwards
Contact Patrea Bojack | patreabojack@hotmail.com
- Friday** ▶ Morning Social
Contact Del Hocking | 0410014564

All ages and abilities welcome

Day & Night Court Hire

<http://play.tennis.com.au>

Go to court hire and follow the prompts
Pay online and get a pincode for the gate

CONTACT

homehilltennis@gmail.com | www.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis | Home Hill Tennis 

Forty-second year of Sugar Bowl Tennis

TENNIS players from as far away as Brisbane and Mareeba in Queensland – and even New Zealand and Tasmania – were among the 44 teams of players that converged on the Home Hill Tennis Association courts complex over the May Day weekend for the Forty-Second annual Sugar Bowl tournament. Many of the participating players use the weekend to catch up with friends who they only see once a year –

and that is by being part of a team competing in the annual tournament.

Teams have a minimum of six players competing in each round of the tournament with some teams having up to 12 players – which results in over 300 players, together with families and supporters, converging on Home Hill for the popular event.

As she referred to the many successes over the three days of the tournament, Home Hill Association Secretary, Kate Casswell was particularly pleased with the “historic” event that took place during this year’s tournament involving the team titled “Teaspoons”.

Originally led by the late David Woods, the team has been competing since 1989 with minimal success – in fact, after being an entrant in every year’s competition since that year, they had success in winning “their first session” in the Sugar Bowl this year.

The team lost their original leader to cancer several years ago and is now led by another member of the Woods clan, Josh Woods, who ensures the team continues to com-

pete while working around the tournament venue throughout the long weekend.

Mrs Casswell said the team were the “workers” of the tournament, but still

competed for the enjoyment of the sport.

The announcement of the success brought strong applause from the crowd of players as the trophies were handed out.



Ruth Stockdale (left) presented the Sugar Bowl trophy to the A1 Men’s Grade winners, Tea Bags



Ruth Stockdale (left) presented the Ladies A1 Sugar Bowl Trophy to Witty’s Gems



Kylie Newman (left) presented the A2 Men’s Grade Sugar Bowl Trophy to Bad Hatters



Jill Barbagallo (left) presented the Ladies A2 Grade Sugar Bowl Trophy to Charters Towers



The B Grade Men’s Sugar Bowl Trophy was presented by Andrew Casswell to the GoldIn Aces team



The Ladies B Grade Sugar Bowl Trophy was won by “Get Under It”



The Teaspoons team which created history by winning its first session since it started competing in 1989



The winners of the team spirit Sugar Bowl Trophy



Direct from Dale
Dale LAST MP Member for **Burdekin**

- Shop 30 Centrepoint Arcade, Queen Street, Ayr QLD 4807
- (07) 4767 0500 **Free call** 1800 817 594 burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au
- dalelast.com.au [DaleLastLNP](https://www.facebook.com/DaleLastLNP) [@DaleLast1](https://twitter.com/DaleLast1)



Dale Last presented a Queensland Flag to Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch officers, President Richard Kelly (left) and Alan Petersen (centre)

Anti-social Behaviour, Home Hill
 There have been recent reports to our office of some antisocial behaviour occurring in Home Hill and surrounds. Some of these incidents are damaging sporting fields, vandalising and stealing from businesses, break and enters and stealing vehicles. Growing up in a small town like Home Hill comes with the benefits and freedoms that our youth enjoy and flourish in, but it also comes with responsibilities. By simply respecting each other's property and livelihoods we can continue to embrace the North Queensland spirit that I believe is still alive and well in Home Hill. If you witness suspicious behaviour or an offence being committed, please contact police immediately.

Home Hill RSL Flag

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, RSL's across the electorate are finalising preparations for this years dawn parade, marches and ceremonies. The Home Hill RSL is no exception and now have a brand new Queensland flag to be flown alongside the Australian flag and others on this important day to remember.

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

Experience Shows in new Quilt

A TOTAL of 25 years of quilting experience brought huge dividends for Home Hill resident, Annette Kelly when she displayed her completed Embroidery Quilt featuring all aspects of Australia's Armed Forces during Home Hill's Anzac Day services. Mrs Kelly, the wife of the RSL Sub-Branch president, Richard Kelly, said it would have taken her "about three

months off and on" to complete the impressive work, which was displayed as a backdrop to the speakers at the Dawn Service and again during the Gunfire Breakfast. Mrs Kelly, who is a member of the Burdekin Patchwork and Quilters Guild and the Embroidery Mates, had aimed to complete the work by Anzac Day and will hand it over to the Home Hill RSL

for future safe-keeping. The Quilt is a Kreative Kiwi Design downloaded from the internet, which Mrs Kelly arranged the way she wanted it with the Navy on top and with the Air Force and Paratroopers underneath dropping off the Army, with the soldiers and the dogs.



Annette Kelly with her embroidery Quilt depicting Australia's Armed Forces and (above) the back panel

LISSMANN & SONS
HOME HILL
PHONE 4782 1612

- PLUMBING & GASFITTING
- CEMENT • PAINT
- GARDENING SUPPLIES • TIMBER

LP GAS Commercial Gases Supplied & Delivered
 1 Fourth Street
 Email: liessmann@bigpond.com
50 Years in Business!

Young views on Anzac Day

SCHOOL children presented their views on Anzac Day when they were asked to complete "Post Cards of Honour" recently. Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch Secretary, Alan Petersen, who addressed the school children, said it showed what they little ones were thinking about Anzac Day and it was interesting to hear the questions they asked. The Post Cards were on display at the RSL's "Gunfire Breakfast" at the Memorial Hall on Anzac Day.



Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch secretary, Alan Petersen with the table of "Post Cards of Honour" from children of the district

Scouts offer fun and opportunities

YOUNG people in the Burdekin District, aged between five and 25, are being given the opportunity to join in with "fun and challenging opportunities to grow through adventure" – but in recent times, local youth have not been taking that opportunity to join in the Scouts Australia activities locally.

With around 70,000 members, Scouts Australia is one of the largest youth development organisations in Australia. What makes the organisation unique is their diverse range of activities that develop skills in young people, such as leadership, teamwork, problem solving and communication from the age of five years.

Today's Scouts can take part in an extraordinary variety of outdoor activities, from 'traditional Scouting skills' such as camping and bushcraft, through to more extreme challenges such as abseiling, overnight hiking, rafting, canoeing, canyoning, snow activities, rock climbing, sailing . . . even flying!

The Scouts Australia Program also incorporates contemporary issues such as youth health, 'responsible risk-taking', vocational skills, and issues pertinent to Indigenous



Lower Burdekin Scout Group leaders, Narelle Timm (left) and Chris Berkery (right) with scouts, Alasdair Carrington, Caitlyn Cheyne, Kiarra Werda and Brianna Cheyne

Australians.

They also offer an Award Scheme that encourages participation in the full range of activities available and provides recognition of individual achievement.

Scouts Australia is an accredited member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM), which has over 40 million members in 169 National Scout Organisations around the world.

Members of the Lower Burdekin Scouts Group meet regularly at their Den at the corner of Twelfth Avenue and Eighth Street, Home Hill where they participate in a program of activities that have already been mapped out for the remainder of 2023 and which will keep the scouts extremely busy.

There is a series of steps to someone becoming a scout,

including attending three to six nights free as an introduction, completing an application to join Scouts Queensland and purchasing a uniform before *the badgework pre-requisites are completed on or around week six, leading into a ceremony to invest a new member.*

A family information booklet is available to anyone wishing to join the Lower Burdekin Scouts by email at gl@lowerburdekin.scoutsqld.com.au or by phoning the Group Leader on 0402 466 952; the Scout Leader on 0419 104 035; or the Cub Leader on 0419 686 905. The entire family is welcome and encouraged to be involved when a member joins Scouting. There are activities that involve all the family and even relatives sometimes will be invited to join in.

Come along to the

Burdekin Craft Spectacular

at the Burdekin Memorial Hall, Home Hill

Saturday 13th May 2023

from 9am to 2pm

Entry Fee ONLY \$2.00

Amazing high quality crafts available at 40 different stalls

Dining room and High Tea available all day



New date for Rags to Runway

THE huge array of entertainment in and around the Home Hill district and even further afield has resulted in the Burdekin Artisan Community Association's annual Burdekin Rags to Runway 2023 being postponed to June 17 to allow more of their prospective entrants and supporters to attend the popular event.

If anyone is interested in entering the competition, the closing date for entries has been extended to close of business on May 12. Message the Burdekin Artisans on Facebook or call 0497356355 to obtain an entry form.

After being held in the open air of the Burdekin Netball Association Courts in Home Hill over the last three years of its existence, the presentation of the completed outfits will this year be featured on stage at

the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Saturday night, June 17 with seating from 7pm for a 7.30pm start to the announce the judges' decisions in each section.

Sewing enthusiasts from throughout the northern region have displayed their skills in past events with a variety of outstanding outfits being shown on the catwalk and a large and appreciative crowd in attendance.

Tickets are available at \$40 per person (\$35.00 each if booked and paid by May 26) from the Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. at 170 Arts on the Avenue, Home Hill, adjacent to Ashworths Rock Shop or online at Trybooking.com.

Book now for a night of unique fashions that will be on display to the audience.

Burdekin Rags to Runway

Presentation Night

Burdekin Memorial Hall

77-79 Ninth Avenue, Home Hill

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Seating by 7.00pm for
Start at 7.30 pm sharp

Tickets @ **\$40.00** available from
170 Arts on the Avenue

170 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill Qld 4806

Online at **Trybooking.com**

Facebook: Burdekin Artisans

Book and Pay by May 26—\$35 per ticket



Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc

Supporting local artists with all funds raised staying in the district



Remembering the ANZACS

Continued from page 1—

in front of the plaques that carried the names of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice past conflicts.

The service was led with an address by Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly and Padre Andrew Ballin followed by a first for the Dawn Parade, the hymn, Abide with Me by the Home Hill Choir.

Speakers, Saluting Officer Flight Lieutenant Mark Walters from the RAAF's 27th Squadron in Townsville and Home Hill High School Captain, Joshua Machin also addressed the crowd as they stood in the growing dawn light.

The speakers were also highlighted by an impressive backdrop of a Quilt made and displayed publicly for the first time by Mrs Annette Kelly, the wife of the Sub-Branch President. A large number of wreaths were laid in front of the hall followed by the bugler with the Last Post and Reveille and the National Anthem from the Burdekin Brass Band and The Lament by Piper Roy Page.

Anzac Day memories were then extended to the Home Hill Cemetery, where Mr Kelly read out the names of all those Home Hill ex-servicemen and women who returned from overseas conflicts and have since passed away and are interred in the cemetery.

The short service also featured the laying of poppies by those present in memory of those family members and friends who were buried in the cemetery.

Padre Ballin also addressed the small crowd ahead of the playing of The Lament by Piper Roy Page and a hymn by the Home Hill Choral Society.

Many of those who were participating in the commemoration services during the morning were the guests of the Home Hill RSL at a "Gunfire Breakfast" at the Burdekin Memorial Hall where a presentation was made to Piper Page for his services in playing the bagpipes at Home Hill commemoration events since 1982.

There was also a display of Post Cards by Home Hill School students, entitled "Post Cards of Honour", in which they depicted what they thought Anzac Day was all about.

Home Hill Sub-Branch Secretary, Alan Petersen said it showed what the little ones were thinking about Anzac Day and it was interesting to hear the questions they asked.

The main parade circled most of the block around the Home Hill Park, starting in Tenth Avenue and moving via Eighth Street along Ninth Avenue before marching towards the Cenotaph along the newly-laid footpaths.

Addresses were delivered by Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly, Saluting Officer, Flt Lt Mark Walters of the RAAF, Mayor Lyn McLaughlin, Padre Andrew Ballin, Federal Member for Dawson Andrew Willcocks and State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last and Home Hill High School captain, Martina Bojack.

A large number of wreaths were laid before the playing of The Last Post and Reveille and the Lament by Piper Roy Page and the National Anthem by the Burdekin Brass Band.

Uli Liessmann comments . .

APRIL 25 is one of the more important days of the year on the Australian calendar and again, the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL hosted the 2023 ANZAC Day Parade.



With good weather and good company, we saw another ANZAC parade go by with no hiccups. Well done boys! The dawn parade was well attended by approximately 250 people which is great for a small town like Home Hill. A larger (too hard to count) crowd of spectators and participants took part in the main parade, including many schools from throughout the Burdekin.

THIS year—2023—also marks the 50th year anniversary since the 1973 proclamation of the end of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. Approximately 60,000 served in Vietnam, over 3000 were wounded and 523 lost their lives. Plus, there are many more key commemorations throughout the year.



A MAJOR much-needed upgrade is under way at the only service station in Home Hill, with a brand change from BP to United Petroleum (Pie Face). I have been informed the work will take approximately six to eight weeks, depending on the weather. This is a definite plus for our main street and I congratulate the company for their vision and commitment to improve this site.

A NEW Main Road contractor's camp has just been set up at Iyah Creek, south of Home Hill and I'm led to believe that another over-



taking lane is to be built between Inkerman Hill and Home Hill. Work is also to be carried out on turning lanes to the entrance



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

of Inkerman Hill; which will definitely make it safer for the travelling public wanting to climb the hilltop. Top marks for this project and all will be finished before Christmas—and again, it depends on the weather, of course.

WHAT is so good about Home Hill? Nearly every day, I get to meet new people mostly retirees from the southern states, that have shifted or are thinking off living in Home Hill, I ask them what is the attraction here and the majority answer the town is clean, it's quiet,



it's close to Townsville and the housing prices are quite reasonable. So instead of trying to sell Home Hill as a tourism destination, we should try to sell the virtues of a good and clean place to live with all the right ingredients for a comfortable life—not forgetting, if they want to work, there are plenty of jobs available. I have mentioned this before, rental accommodation is very hard to get if not impossible, so should the empty shops that line Eighth Avenue be converted to residential? Yes. It would cost a lot of money and just maybe, Council could come to the party with cutting some of the red tape. One can only hope and dream!

Another business is leaving Home Hill which is not good—and now we have another empty building. But that is what business is about, to be more efficient, trying to keep your staff level. Good, trained staff is a major asset to any business. On the positive side, the prawn shop which was closed for some time is back in a new location (as they pointed out in an advertisement in *The Home Hill News* previously) and, in fact, it is just across the street from the old premises. I wish you all the best.

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 (Email: homehilltennis@gmail.com, Facebook: Home Hill Tennis or to book a court go to play.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis; 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, 9am to 11.30am at Home Hill Community Sports Club, Ninth Avenue, Home Hill for general craft activities and cooking tips. Cost \$3 with morning tea. Phone 0427 804 129 for more information

Home Hill Swimming Pool (Eleventh Avenue) is open throughout the summer months—5.30am to 7pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 5.30am to 6pm Wednesday; 10am to 6pm Sunday.

Home Hill Service Clubs—The **Home Hill Lions Club** meets at the Crown Hotel on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The **Home Hill Rotary Club** meets at their Club House (58 Thirteenth Avenue, Home Hill) on the first Tuesday of each month and at the Malpass Hotel, Home Hill at 6.30pm on each other Tuesday night of the month. Visitors are welcome at both clubs.

Mount Inkerman—approximately 12km south of Home Hill, near the township of Inkerman. Access to the top is via a narrow road, which is not suitable for caravans and a "Nature Trail" for walkers. The narrow road has been widened in sections and a number of new safety barriers installed. Recommend visiting as there are outstanding views of the surroundings such as cane and other farms.

Old Time Dancing at the St Helen's Anglican Church Hall, Tenth Avenue, Home Hill on the first three Saturday nights of each month;

Pioneer Avenue Plaques – learn about the history of many of the pioneers of Home Hill and the Burdekin District by reading the plaques situated along the western side of the ti-trees in Home Hill's main street

Sing Along with the **Home Hill Choral Society** — every Wednesday evening at the "The Vault" - the Choral Society Hall in Eighth Avenue—from 7pm to 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join in.

The Big Canecutters—Visit the former Home Hill Showgrounds (southern end of town across the railway line) to see the representation of the former canecutters that cut the Burdekin district's sugar cane crop before the advent of mechanical cane harvesting.

Comments on our town or services would be appreciated. Email ddjacko@bigpond.com or secretary@homehillchamber.com