



# Major grants for local clubs

SEVERAL Home Hill-based sporting clubs have been successful in gaining grants totaling over half a million dollars through their own hard work and ingenuity towards their financial and developmental futures with announcements by government and business organisations of the allocation of grants towards the upgrade of their individual local projects.

The organisations include the Home Hill Tennis Association who have been allocated \$250,000 towards the upgrade of their toilet facilities; The Home Hill Community Sports Club, who will receive \$159,850 and \$2500 towards the upgrade of their bowling green as well as another project; The Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. who have been successful with two grant applications which will in-

clude building work to upgrade the inside of their premises at 170 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill, as well as the installation of air conditioning with funds granted from Pacific Blue's Houghton Sustainable Communities Fund; The Burdekin Netball Association who have been successful in receiving several grants recently including \$100,000 from the Casino Community Benefit Fund for lights and solar installations, \$2500 from Active Clubs for training equipment and \$11,000 from Bendigo Bank for training equipment; and the Burdekin Brass Band and the Home Hill Choral Society who each received donations from Pacific Blue's Houghton Sustainable Communities Fund, which shares the benefits of the Houghton Solar Farm with the surrounding communities.

**Further stories on page 7, 8, 14**

# Fire fails to stop Inkerman crush

THE 2023 sugar crushing season in Home Hill has been planned to commence on Wednesday, June 7 at Wilmar Sugar's Inkerman Mill, with an estimated crop of 1.8 million tonnes, which is on par with the previous year's tonnage.

However, soon after the mill responded to a request from *The Home Hill News* for details of the season start at Inkerman, a fire broke out in the conveyor at the exit of B1 mill on Wednesday afternoon, May 24.

Prior to the fire, Wilmar Sugar's Burdekin Regional Operations Manager, Paul Turnbull

announced that the largest capital project for the Burdekin region this year is the major upgrade to Inkerman Mill's boiler station, a \$13.4 million project, which included a re-tube of boiler one, which is the largest boiler on site.

Improvements have also been made to boiler two and boiler three in the major upgrade, which Mr Turnbull said "addresses the reliability issues with Inkerman Mill's boiler station, which caused lost time in the 2021 and 2022 seasons".

The works were undertaken by principal

contractor, EDMS Australia, which has had up to 45 people on site, working day and night shifts, to complete the project.

"Stage one of the boiler station works was carried out last year and included remedial works on boilers one and three, ahead of the 2022 crush," Mr Turnbull said.

"The major capital upgrades have taken place this maintenance season and will improve reliability of the Inkerman boiler station, which supplies steam and power to the factory."

**Continued on page 5—**



The new A-side tippler at Inkerman Mill.



Glenn Nicholson



ABOVE—The Inkerman boiler station upgrade is the biggest capital project in the Burdekin this year.

LEFT—New boiler tubes in Inkerman's boiler one.

WHAT is the lesser of two evils?—removing the bats in the trees around Home Hill or putting up with them because the noise of the firing of guns and pyrotechnics scares many pets witless? Unfortunately, it is not a question that many people have an answer for, apart from doing everything they can to settle their pets down—because the last thing our town needs is the problems towns like Charters Towers have had with the constant problem of bats living in trees in local parks, making the facilities unusable. We were unaware of the Council's plans to take action to disperse the bats when we published the May edition of *The Home Hill News*, which meant we were unable to warn our readers. However, the Chamber was advised by the mayor ahead of the dispersal activities which took place from mid-May. (The Council did have a capable Communications Officer who kept us informed of Council actions, but since he left, they have not been able to fill the position.) There may have been many surprised early-morning walkers who heard pyrotechnics that made it sound like they were in a war zone, while many pets refused to go for their morning ritual. If the dispersal efforts have been successful, then the town will be better off for it. And for pet owners, there is a pet item called a "Thunder Blanket" that is designed to help reduce the stress on animals when they hear the sound of thunder or guns or the like.

AMONG the many jobs that are available in the Burdekin is one very important position that involves the safety of the children in the town as they head to school each day—a school crossing supervisor or better known as a "Lollipop Lady (or man)". A local vacancy was advertised late last year and obviously there were no takers as it is again being advertised in this issue of *The Home Hill News* by the State Department of Transport. The position does not involve a lot of hours but it is an important one for the ongoing safety of local school children.

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

A REGULAR Visitor to Home Hill has expressed disappointment about the lack of promotion of and access to the walking track up Mount Inkerman after having difficulty trying to undertake the exercise she wanted to do after having used the track on previous visits to the town. Our visitor referred to the "wonderful natural asset Mt Inkerman is for the Burdekin" and commented that "every time I visit Home Hill, it is one place I always visit for a hike as it is very peaceful place and the views are stunning". The writer also referred to the amount of work that had been put into the nature trails which was a credit to the local council "with the workers and designers to be commended". However they pointed out that the only "disappointing thing" is that no one, except the locals, know it's there. "There is no signage for the trails or where to park, except at the lookout carpark at the top of Mt Inkerman or at the start of the original walking trail (but it hasn't been updated with the newest/alternative starting point)". The writer continued: "The newest nature trail is a more challenging walk, with lots of steps, but it is also very challenging to find. The turn off is approximately 100m on the right from the highway on the lookout road, with an overgrown entrance, making it even harder to find. So much time and effort has gone into building the trail, but unfortunately, someone forgot to put up a sign showing the carpark and the start of the trail. The only marker (pictured) is a piece of timber about a metre high with a small arrow and 'Mount In-

kerman LOOK-OUT 1450m'."

While pointing out that travellers and tourists love to hike and many would stop to enjoy these trails to see the wonderful views of the Burdekin—BUT, "unless they have the AllTrails app, or something similar or read this newsletter, it is such a shame that they won't know it is there". The writer suggested that with a little additional signage, this local attraction could provide so many more locals and tourists with a memorable experience of the Burdekin. Maybe our council could take up the advice of our correspondent and do more to promote the site with signage? However, with work under way on a turning lane into the road up Mount Inkerman, could it be that Council could be planning upgraded signage in the area once the highway work is completed. The advice could go a long way to encouraging more people to stop.



Anyone who has a few hours to spare on a daily basis should look for the advertisement on page 6 of this issue and give due consideration to whether they would be able to help the department out—as well as earning a little bit of extra pocket money to help pay the bills as costs continue to rise.

HOME HILL may not have had much interest shown in it in recent years from all levels of government as any possible development has bypassed our town—unless it has come through private organisations. However, that has all changed significantly in recent weeks with the bonus announcements of grants being awarded to local clubs and organisations to upgrade their facilities for the benefit of their members. And some of that grant

funding has actually come from at least one level of government. To have almost half a million dollars worth of work coming to the town is a huge boost, considering we have had little to show off apart from grants that have been obtained by other local organisations. We have been told that the effort that has to go into applying for grants of any type is "huge" with comments like "it is unbelievable some of the questions that are asked about the grants and those applying for them". Apparently, the more grants that are applied for, the more chance there is for clubs to be successful as "experience counts" from previous efforts. We have been told there are enormous amounts of grant money on offer for anyone looking to upgrade facilities—hopefully more Home Hill organisations will be able report on success in the future.

- DAVID JACKSON



# Dispersal program targets town bats

FLYING fox issues in Home Hill have been the centre of attention for the Burdekin Shire Council for two weeks in May, with the assistance of Biodiversity Australia, as dispersal activities took place from Tuesday, May 16 in varying areas of the town, including Kidby Gully. Mayor Lyn McLaughlin spoke to members of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce in May about the activities which were to start just after the meeting was held.

Chamber members were told that during the period of the dispersal activities, they would continue each morning until 8am for two weeks, during which period, residents could expect loud noise and should take action to secure their pets. The noise was expected to be most significant at the start of the program and gradually decrease as the program pro-

gressed. Pyrotechnics were to be used to disperse the flying-foxes and Home Hill residents were advised not to undertake their own dispersal activities during the program, as it may negatively affect what the Biodiversity Australia team were trying to achieve. If flying-foxes were to land in anyone's yard, they were advised to phone the hotline number (1300 506 991), while more information on the dispersal activities were available on the Council Customer Service (4783 9800). The Dispersal Activities included – Deterrent measures used by Biodiversity Australia, which included audio and pyrotechnics; Statistics of the number of pyrotechnic cartridges used is not normally kept in these activities and the figures provided were approximations; The first day was the most important, with maximum deterrent

effort - and the second and subsequent days were more low key, with minor and minimum deterrents used. Flying foxes dispersed quickly, mainly in a north and north-eastern direction; Biodiversity Australia continued to monitor the main site at Kidby Gully plus other spill-over sites identified and called through from the public; Biodiversity Australia were to be on site until Monday, May 29, 2023 and council staff was to monitor sites thereafter. The following results were reported by the Council for the daily activities that took place – Tuesday, May 16 – An initial main effort with a high number of rounds used in the first effort to clear out Kidby Gully and follow to other spill-over sites, such as Lloyd Mann Park, Seventeenth Street and the Mill area. Wednesday, May 17 - Only minor numbers of rounds used and little

encouragement needed to move bats on. Only about 200 bats attempted to return. Thursday, May 18 - Minimum pyro's used and approximately 50 bats at the main roost dispersed quickly. Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20 - Minimum pyro's used each day; Sunday, May 21 – A rest day for observation only. There may be 50 bats at Kidby Gully. Monday, May 22 – Minimum Pyros with up to 500 bats in Kidby Gully that left easily and of their own accord. Tuesday, May 23 - Minimum pyros - Approximately 50 bats in Kidby Gully, which were dispersed quickly. Overflow areas to look at were at Seventeenth Street, Memorial Park and the Mill. No further reports were received from council on the deterrent effort, although it was evident that more pyrotechnics were used up to the morning of Monday, May 29 when the sounds of shots were heard.

THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. is urging prospective attendees at its unique Rags to Runway event to get their tickets early to ensure their place at the Memorial Hall on the postponed date of June 17, 2023. The event tests the skills of

## Ticket time for Rags to Runway

participating seamstresses, who use their design talents and sewing machine skills to turn valueless garments, that may have been sitting in a cupboard or on a shelf in an Opportunity Shop for long periods, into outstanding fashions

that will stand out in the crowd at any major event. Tickets are available at \$40 per person from the Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. at 170 Arts on the Avenue or online at Trybook-

ing.com .

All funds raised will stay in the Home Hill district supporting the many artists who display their varying forms of artwork at the Artisan Community Shop at 170 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill, adjacent to Ashworths Rock Shop. Book now for a night of unique fashions

## They are racing again in Home Hill in June

Enjoy a day out under the big trees at the Home Hill Race Track as the Burdekin Race Club features a six-event program on

**Saturday, June 17, 2023**

If you enjoyed the Burdekin Grower Race Day, come along again to take advantage of the facilities and pleasant surroundings of Home Hill's racing facilities.



Six local races during the afternoon plus southern races, the TAB in operation as well as local book-makers and a range of food options available

## Chamber gives away Cowboys memorabilia

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has provided the opportunity for young supporters of the North Queensland Cowboys to build up their supply of promotional items, after they handed out a quantity of donated gear that the North Queensland Cowboys had donated to the Chamber.

The Chamber hosted a morning of Cowboys giveaways at the Home Hill Comfort Stop on Saturday, May 6, after the Cowboys sent the gear to the Chamber after children in the town missed out on participating in other activities the Cowboys were conducting in towns throughout the north. While the Chamber promoted the morning to take place from 8am to 11am with the give-aways at 10am, many young families arrived early to take part, because they were also involved in other activities around the district.

Those who were able to stay were on hand to take their share of the Cowboys products, which included two different types of Cowboys carry bags, Cowboys



LEFT—Set with the task of giving away the free Cowboys items were (from left) Chamber treasurer John Clarke, secretary Robert Antoniazzi, stall holder Richard Samwell and Chamber president David Jackson.

BELOW - Ferne (left) and Grace Antoniazzi with the signed football won at the giveaway of Cowboys memorabilia.

caps, lanyards and frisbees, while the Chamber's intention to raffle a football signed by the Cowboys team was altered, so that all those present were given a free ticket in the football giveaway. That proved popular as the Antoniazzi Family took the prize. Chamber President, David Jackson said he was pleased with the response they received from the young supporters of the Cowboys and their families, although it was disappointing that some had to leave the Comfort Stop early to attend other appointments. He also thanked the North Queensland



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Members of the Foote Family with the Home Hill Cup from 1943 (from left, standing) Margret Dale, Betty Eade and Delphine Baker and (front) Bill, Jim and Hubert Foote.

## Family revives Cup memories

WHILE thousands of racing and fashion fans flocked to the Home Hill Race Track on Saturday, May 20, 2023, for the running of the Burdekin Cup (previously known as the Home Hill Cup), this year's patrons were given the opportunity to link with a former Home Hill Cup winner on the same track from 80 years ago as the members of the Foote Family displayed a trophy won through the efforts of a long-standing member of the Home Hill Club, John (Jock) Foote.

Jock Foote, who now has the on-ground stables named after him at the track, was the trainer of Grand Poplar, that was raced in Home Hill by Mick Carr and John Carr, when it won the Home Hill Cup during the war years of 1943.

The horse was ridden by another well-known local resident and "great" amateur jockey, Roddy McDonald, while trainer Jock Foote was also a former jockey of the era. The Cup was brought

back to Home Hill by former Home Hill resident, Bill Foote, who moved to Perth many years ago and ended up with the trophy after his father passed away. Bill had returned to Home Hill for the funeral of his sister-in-law, Lyn Foote, the wife of another member of the Foote Family, Jim, who now lives in Townsville.

With the family back together, Bill resurrected the Cup for all to see at a time when all the talk was aimed at the running of the now "Burdekin" Cup 80 years on.

Bill Foote said he did not believe the Home Hill Cup was run for a couple of years after Grand Poplar's win. Despite the sadness of his trip, Bill was able to join in a couple of celebrations during his two-month stay before returning to Perth, joining in the recognition of his brother, Hubert's eightieth birthday and the Fiftieth wedding anniversary for his sister, Delphine and Graham Baker.

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## June 7 start at Inkerman

Continued from page 1—

"All up, we've used 11km of steel tube in boiler one – roughly the distance between Home Hill and Ayr."

Wilmar's Regional Operations Manager said the next most significant capital project being undertaken at Inkerman Mill this season was stage two of the feeding station upgrade.

"We're spending \$2M on a major upgrade of the A-side feeding station, including a new tippler," Mr Turnbull announced.

"The B-side feeding station was upgraded ahead of last year's crush.

"We've put significant focus on the commissioning program for the new feeding station, applying learnings from teething issues when commissioning the B side at the start of the 2022 crush."

Major maintenance projects at Inkerman Mill also include the replacement of the A4 mill gearing shaft, repairs to the main cooling towers and the replacement of the evaporator LP steam valve.

As for the fire, work is under way to repair the damage, with a project team appointed to carry out the repairs, identify what work

needs to be done, develop a work plan and order materials.

Mr Turnbull said most of the damage was contained to the 10-metre conveyor and the electrical wiring above that conveyor.

"Fortunately, no one was hurt and our crews did an extremely good job of containing the fire to one part of the factory until emergency services arrived."

He said Inkerman Mill intended to start crushing on Wednesday, June 7, as planned. "We're optimistic we'll have the repairs finished and have both sides of the factory operational for the start of the season."

A new 26t loco, 'The Alma', is also being constructed for the Inkerman area at a cost of \$1.8M.

However, a planned project to erect a new cane rail bridge over Kidby Gully has been deferred to the end of the 2023 crush.

Wilmar Sugar has also announced that Glenn Nicholson is the new Production Superintendent of Inkerman Mill.

Mr Nicholson has been with Wilmar since 2009 and has worked across all four Burdekin mills, including most recently as the Assistant Production Superintendent at Invicta Mill at Giru.

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# Retirement ahead for popular doctor

THE high regard in which retiring Home Hill doctor, Narelle Martin has been held in the Home Hill community was evident as many of her patients from the 42 years she has served the residents of the region came together for a farewell function at the Home Hill Hospital on Monday, May 15. The event was beautifully and thoughtfully arranged by Anne Byrnes and Fiona Burke so that staff and patients would have time to wish each other well in the future.

Dr Martin came to Home Hill for what was originally to be a 12-month term as a locum in place of her brother, Peter, who held the position of Hospital Doctor with a right of private practice.

At the time, there were two full-time doctors at the Ayr Hospital and "half a doctor" at the Home Hill Hospital (as that doctor also operated a private practice).

In thanking the well-wishers for their gifts and good wishes at her farewell function, Dr Martin said that when she arrived in town and saw the line of trees along the main street, she thought "this place looks okay".

She said she was on call on weekends and when she had to go over to Ayr to deliver a baby, Tony (her husband) came with her and he slept in the car while he waited for her.

"Home Hill people are very welcoming and we are very blessed," she commented. "I am very lucky." She said her children had all made their homes in the Burdekin and she now has three wonderful grandchildren.

Expanding on her time in Home Hill after cleaning out her surgery at the Home Hill Hospital where she has worked for the past 26 years, Dr Martin said her brother Peter was a scholarship holder and had

completed his time working for Queensland Health and was in the process of selling the practice, resulting in her agreeing to take the position of locum for 12 months.

Peter had been in Ayr then Home Hill for about five years and was involved in the planning for the new Home Hill Hospital.

Narelle Martin said she came and stayed more than 12 months and things changed

when she met Tony Castorina (her husband) and they were married in 1985.

At that time, she was still at the Hospital and did private practice, working out of the former doctor's surgery at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Tenth Street.

After she sold that practice, she commenced the Women's Health Clinic at the Hospital and she named a long list of valued staff members who had worked in the practice over the years, many of whom her patients would remember and without them, the practice would not have been able to deliver the same efficient but loving care over the years.

To ease any concerns Home Hill residents may have about the future of the Home Hill Hospital after she had moved out of the building, Dr Martin said she had spoken to Hospital authorities about what may happen and had been told that the Home Hill Hospital could be used for visits by specialist doctors because of a shortage of space at the Ayr Hospital as well as consideration for any



Dr Narelle Martin (centre) with her staff at her retirement function, Nursing Sister Anne Byrnes (left) and Fiona Burke (office manager)

other evolving needs of the district.

The Dialysis Unit is also playing an important part in the future of the hospital with a growing need for the service, instead of patients having to go to Townsville. However, the biggest problem is a lack of trained staff, with more locally-based staff needed.

Dr Martin said she was still contacting her patients with results of tests that had been taken and assisting people with the change-over to another doctor.

She advised that anyone wanting to leave any message or query for her could do so by giving it to Fiona Ricca in the Hospital office. One thing is for certain, there would not be the staff shortages in the Health Department in the state if there were more families like the Martins – Dr Narelle Martin is in the middle of five siblings, with her four brothers all working in health – two as doctors, one as a dentist and one as an anaesthetist.

Along with all her patients, we wish Dr Martin all the best for her future in Home Hill as she devotes more time to being a grandmother.

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# Golf event to honour young business woman

THE annual "Kali's Cup", a fundraising event held in honour of young Home Hill business woman, Kali Totorica, who passed away from melanoma in 2018 at the age of 21, is to take place on Sunday, June 11 at the Ayr Golf Club, with the aim of bringing the community together and raising awareness of melanoma and funds for skin cancer research. Anyone is welcome to attend and register a team of four to participate in the nine-hole

Ambrose event at a cost of \$20 per person, with cash prizes up for grabs for the winners. For anyone who does not want to participate in the golf competition, they are still welcome to attend to buy some delicious goodies from the bake sale, grab a bite for lunch, or to try their luck on the raffles and money boards. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation. This year, the organisers have chosen a "superheroes" theme,



Former Home Hill Florist, Kali Totorica who is remembered with Kali's Cup

as they honour those real superheroes, who are fighting or have lost their life to cancer.

Participants have been encouraged to dress in superhero theme and compete for the "best dressed" prize.

To register a team, contact Liana Kennedy (0437 848 188)

Melanoma is the most common cancer affecting Australians aged 20 to 39, with statistics showing that one Australian is diagnosed with melanoma every 30 minutes

and one Australian dies from melanoma every six hours.

Kali was a proud member of the Burdekin community operating her Home Hill business, Lilly May Flowers and Gifts and hosted local fundraisers to raise money and awareness for melanoma research, all while enduring her own battle with the deadly disease.

Kali's loving family is continuing her legacy and would be grateful for your support for what will be their third year organising the Cup event.

Last year alone, they raised \$11,000 for the very worthy cause, with all proceeds donated to the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation, in an effort to support their mission to provide support, education, fund research and drive advocacy for melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

Anyone who would like to be involved in helping this very important local community event should contact either Liana Kennedy (0437 848 188) or Maria Totorica (0428 848 188).

## Tennis grant approved

From Page 1—

THE Home Hill Tennis Association were advised of their success in the State Government's Minor Infrastructure Program, with the allocation of \$250,000 towards a \$350,000 project to upgrade their toilet facilities.

Tennis Association Past President, Dallan Garvey was advised that the state government recognised the need to provide continued funding for not-for-profit sport and active recreation organisations and local governments throughout Queensland, to support infrastructure projects that benefit local communities.

Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport, Strirling Hinchliffe MP congratulated the club on their success. Tennis Association secretary, Kate Casswell, who undertook the work for the successful grant, said their current toilets were originally built in 1959 and had a couple of minor upgrades since then.

"Our goal is to upgrade the existing amenities to include a PWD (Persons with a disability) and ambulant toilet that

are inclusive and accessible," she said. "This will hopefully increase participation in tennis and in community use of the facilities and to improve the quality and safety for users. "New quality facilities will be safer for all users and will encourage participation," Mrs Casswell said. It had always been a vision for her and her late husband, Col to get the facilities upgraded "and it was even more special, as the club got word of this positive news on the anniversary of his death".

The Tennis Association has a tax deductible donations page set up through the Australian Sports Foundation to raise extra funds, if any individuals are interested in supporting the project. The Association has also been successful in gaining funds to upgrade the front patio area of their clubhouse through the Pacific Blue Haughton Sustainable Communities Fund. "We are very thankful to both Pacific Blue and the State Government for these grants," she commented.

Joel Little has taken over as president from Mr Garvey.

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Some of the recipients of grants from Pacific Blue's Sustainable Communities Fund at the Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival in Home Hill last Saturday

## Burdekin Clubs supported with more grants

FOUR Home Hill-based organisations were amongst a total of 12 Burdekin clubs who have been presented with grants under Pacific Blue's Houghton Sustainable Communities Fund, which shares the benefits of the Houghton Solar Farm with the surrounding communities, providing long-lasting social, economic and environmental value that goes beyond the life of the solar farm.

Pacific Blue's General Manager Development & Delivery, Simon Maan made the presentations to the organisations who were able to attend the Sweet Days, Hot Nights activities at the former Home Hill Showgrounds recently.

The Home Hill organisations that received their grants were the Home Hill Tennis Association; Home Hill Choral Society, Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. and the Burdekin Brass Band.

Those that were present to receive their grants were the Burdekin Community Association, Ayr Surf Lifesaving Club, the Burdekin Potters, the Clare State School and the Burdekin Machinery Preservationists.

Other successful organisations that were unable to be present for the ceremony were Giru Daycare, Giru State School and the Burdekin Vietnam Veterans.

From March 1 to 31, 2023, eligible community groups and not-for-profit organisations from throughout the Burdekin were encouraged to apply for project funding up to \$10,000 from a pool of \$80,000.

Since the commissioning of Houghton Solar Farm in 2019, the Fund

has provided more than \$300,000 to 52 local sustainable projects. The Houghton Sustainable Communities Fund is a part of Pacific Blue's Community Benefit Sharing Program, which has provided more than \$5 million to over 1000 projects across Australia since 2005.

The Houghton Sustainable Communities Fund aims to support projects, initiatives, and organisations that provide lasting benefits to local communities and address community needs in at least one of these six key areas - Education and training, Health and welfare, Sport and recreation, Arts and Culture, The environment and projects that support the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### Gumlu School Promotion

THE pupils, staff and parents of the Gumlu State School held a promotion on Wednesday, May 31 to highlight the future professions that the pupils may be able to follow through their education at the school. Under the leadership of Principal Thomas Harrington, the seven students are working hard to develop their futures in what is a real country atmosphere where the school grounds have a range of animals roaming throughout the area. Those animals include sheep, cattle, geese, poultry and more. A full report on the promotion will appear in the July issue of *The Home Hill News*.

<b>HOME HILL NEWS</b>  <b>Advertising Rates</b>	(From September, 2022)	<b>Member's Price</b>	<b>Non-Member's Price</b>
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# Racing and fashions to the fore

THE Burdekin Race Club has reached new heights at the twenty-fifth anniversary of Burdekin Grower Race Days with racegoers streaming through the gates to create a crowd that Club President, Ricky Gudge described as "being close to a record, if it didn't achieve a record number".

"What a day!" Mr Gudge commented.

"Fashions were again of the highest standard with the out-of-town judges commenting on the quality in all categories that entered into the Brown Brothers competition.

"The Next Gen Platinum marquee was a big hit, with patrons having only positive comments on all parts of what was offered.

"Cocktails were a big winner and with the drinks being complimented with top flavours from the tapas menu, everyone was extremely happy," Mr Gudge said. "Word is that this marquee will require extending next year, with numerous comments of that's where I'm going in 2024."

The Burdekin's horticultural growers again heavily supported the race meeting, with bins of produce generously donated by local farmers and if crowds continue to grow as they are, the Race Club may have to look at securing a few more. The Race Club President offered a huge "Thank You" to the generous people who donated produce . . . "you made the day for many people, guaranteeing them going home a winner".

The six-event racing program did not disappoint as well, with experienced jockey, Graham Kliese having a field day, riding four winners from his five rides, including the feature event, the Carlton United Burdekin Cup over 1830 metres, as he capped off of a prosperous day with a win on Wise Dragon, for trainer, Stephen Bush from Townsville.

Kliese started the day well riding the first three winners, including Whistle in the Burdekin Veterinary Services maiden, locally trained Rebel Lake in the Star Liquor BM50 over 1460 metres and Old School in the Lysaght BM55 over 1180 metres.

Other winners for the day were Heiswoody in the Nutrien AG Solutions Class B over 1000 metres and Golden Athena in the Battle of the Bush qualifier, which guarantees the horse a place in the final in Brisbane worth \$150,000.

President Ricky Gudge was thankful to all the Race Club's sponsors with their generosity "greatly appreciated".

Mr Gudge also offered his sincere thanks to all the volunteers who donated time, whether it was

a few hours or those people who were there for weeks setting up.

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you," he said.

"This event would not happen without you. Organising events like this day take an enormous amount of work, but the rewards of doing something like this, to see the patrons enjoying it, is very fulfilling." He urged anyone who would like to donate a bit of time to help with the Race Club to make contact with him.

"Who knows, you may really enjoy it," he commented.

"Remember you don't need to be part of the executive to have a say at the club."

## Race Day Prize Winners

**Fashion Winners**—Millinery Masterpiece: Winner Ibi Holder, runner-up Katie Chicalas; Stylish Gentleman winner Brendan Kolb, Runner-up Phillip Burger; Contemporary Lady winner Brittney Tamou, Runner-up Ureisha Hughes; Classic Lady winner: Belinda Ogilvie, Runner-up Trudy Bryer; Best Dressed Couple Chelsea and Phillip Burger, Runner-up: June Taylor and Jude Wheeler.

**Vegetables**—Best Eggplant Pirrone Bros; Best Melon P.M. Chapman; Runner-up Rushel Produce; Best Box of Produce Home Hill High School; Runner-up Pirrone Bros.; **Produce Challenge**—Best Capsicum: Winner Minuzzo Farm; Second John Barbagallo; Best Zucchini: Spotswood Agencies; Second Pirrone Bros.



Jockey Graham Kliese with Burdekin Cup winner, Wise Dragon, trainer Stephen Bush and Burdekin Club Life Member, Charlie Barbagallo.



Jeremy Caspanello, Ron Scott and Ricky Gudge with successful jockey, Graham Kliese and one of their two winners on the day



Best dressed couple, Chelsea and Phillip Burger with runners-up, June Taylor and Jude Wheeler



Contemporary Lady runner-up, Ureisha Hughes and the winner, Brittney Tamou



Member for Burdekin Dale Last MP with the Classic Lady winner, Belinda Ogilvie



*Direct from Dale*

**Dale LAST MP** Member for **Burdekin**

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### Parliament Update

ON April 18, 2023, I had the opportunity to speak in Parliament about the need for the Burdekin to have access to a CT scanner at the Ayr Hospital. The Minister of Health was present at the time and it remains to be seen whether this crucial piece of medical equipment is funded in the upcoming budget.

As we all know, the installation of a CT scanner will assist in better health outcomes for the community. As it stands today, up to 15 patients a week are forced to make the return trip to Townsville—a 180km round trip that often relies on private transport.

I have also requested information on the programs currently being offered across the State regarding early intervention programs in the youth crime space.

As we know, our community is not immune to the youth crime epidemic currently gripping the State and I will continue to advocate on behalf of victims to ensure these offenders are held to account.

### Home Hill ANZAC Day 2023

I WAS honoured to attend the Home Hill ANZAC Day ceremony on April 25, 2023 at the Cenotaph in the Home Hill Park. The ceremony was attended by current and former servicemen and women, school students, distinguished guests and the wider community. To see so many people attend, not only the ceremony, but the street parade, was encouraging. As Australians, it is our duty to ensure that those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today continue to receive the dignity, respect and gratitude they have come to deserve.

### Here to help

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

*Until next time, stay safe and well*  
**Dale**



Young Burdekin Air Force Cadets (left and right) were part of the Catafalque Party at the Home Hill Cenotaph as Flight Lieutenant Mark Walters and Flight Sergeant Darren Maxted laid a wreath.

### Welcome to St Colman's Open Day

AN Open Day will be held at St Colman's School on Tuesday, June 6 with a special theme - a celebration of farming in our area. School Principal, Karen Keys said everyone was welcome at the event, even if they are not attendees at the school. "It is a celebration of our farming community, with Wilmar, Sunwater, the Prawn farm, Mick the Cane Cutter, tractors, ponies, a petting zoo, our local emergency services and craft activities," Ms Keys said. The free activities will take place from 9am to 10.30am and all ages are welcome. Attendees are also welcome to look over St. Colman's School, which currently is "91 students strong".

### Sixty-five years of married life



CONGRATULATIONS have been extended to Joe and Joan Rigano, of Home Hill, on their Sixty-Fifth wedding anniversary. Married at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ayr on May 10, 1958, Joe and Joan have always resided at Ford Road, Home Hill. Their five children - Joanne, Rosemarie, Joseph, Connie and Majella - along with their partners, many grandchildren and extended families, offered a warm "Thank you for your love and grace through the years, Mum and Dad - God bless you always" to their parents.

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The first fire of the 2023 season was still the centre of attention for most of those attending the event on Friday night.

## Huge support for Sweet Days, Hot Nights

SWEET Days and Hot Nights hit Home Hill with a vengeance at the end of May as the Festival that takes the population back to the days of hand cane cutting drew strong support from both local residents and visitors alike for the Friday night entertainment activities and the unique entertainment during the Saturday program.

Support from the public on the Friday night was so big that many attendees had to find parking on the eastern side of the railway line near the Post Office and in the main street. And while numbers were not as large on the Saturday, those present still enjoyed watching and learning from the unique competition. Variety was also evident in the entertain-



John Arrate in action at the end of his heat and relaxing afterwards

ment that was provided on Friday night and on Saturday, while those present also enjoyed a wide variety of foods that were on offer.

Results in the various competitions for the 2023 Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships—

**COMPETITION 1** – 55 Years and Over Age Category - John Arrate 1, 14.03min; Enzo Codega 2, 16.16min; Jeff Bradshaw 3, 19.10min.

**COMPETITION 2** - 35 Years to 55 Years Age Category - Tony Felesina 1, 15.00min; Jeff Ellwood – 2, 16.58min; Mark Vass 3, 17.20min;

Special Mention, Patrick Putman.

**COMPETITION 3** - Under 35 Years Age Category - Stuart Gilbert 1, 17.13min; Angus Gilbert 2, 23.20min; Karl Altmann 3, 26.40min.

**COMPETITION 4** - Ladies Cup - Rhonda McBow 1, 6.29min; Nikki Vass 2, 6.49min; Sue King 3, 7.02min,

**COMPETITION 5** - Novice Ladies - Traci Ellwood 1, 10.22min; Sandi Burt 2, 16.30min; Nicole Fox 3, 18.27min.

**COMPETITION 6 – Grand Final**, Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships Final - Adam Gilbert 1, 23.10min; Stuart Gilbert 2, 26.17min; Enzo Codega 3, 28.09min; Jeff Ellwood 4, 28.25min; Mark Vass 5, 28.31min; Tony Felesina 6, 29.55min; John Arrate 7, 32.19min; Karl Vass 8 34.08min.

**7** - Pacific Hydro Corporate Challenge - Next Gen Renewables 1, 16.13min; Mt Alma Organics 2, 26.20min; ANZ 3, 28.40min.

**COMPETITION 8** - Swindley Memorial Cut, Top and Load Relay (held in honour of Kevin Swindley) Adam Gilbert, Stuart Gilbert, Angus Gilbert, Keith Gilbert 1, 20.41min; Enzo Codega, Patrick Putman, Karl Altmann, Jeff Ellwood 2, 27.08min; Tony Felesina, Aaron Bathis, Trent Higgs, Dylan Carew 3, 32.12min



Patrons of the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships on Saturday enjoyed a ride around the grounds in a vehicle from the cane cutting days.



Karl Vass winning his heat and enjoying a cool drink afterwards.





Kindred Spirits leader, Ruth Stockdale (left) with members of the group during a practice session ahead of their Musical Moments performance

## Kindred Spirits concert preparations

MUSIC Lovers throughout the Burdekin will once again be able to enjoy the dulcet tones of the members of the vocal group, *Kindred Spirits*, who are busily rehearsing for their forthcoming concert to be held on Saturday, June 10.

Entitled "Musical Moments", the afternoon will feature a great variety of songs, with the program sure to have something for everyone.

Musical Moments will once again take place in the Minor Hall of the Memorial Hall Complex, with doors

opening at 1.30pm for a 2pm start to the program.

With special guests performing during the afternoon as well, patrons will be in for a treat.

As usual, there will be a multiple draw cent sale and, of course, a delicious afternoon tea, which is included in the ticket price of \$25.

All money received is to be donated to the Cancer Council Queensland.

Tickets for the event can be purchased from any member of the group or from Ruth Stockdale (4782 1399).

## Time for Ephemera entries

PROSPECTIVE entrants in the annual Canefields Ephemera for 2023, held in conjunction with the Home Hill Harvest Festival celebrations, have been reminded that entry forms must be submitted by June 30, 2023.

Described as "Home Hill's Ephemera, which is in its sixth year, is a much-loved and anticipated annual event, which has continued to grow over the years.

Organiser of the 2023 display, Uli Liessmann has urged prospective entrants to submit their entry form by June 30. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, July 8 and catalogue information and finalisation of the image should be completed by September 1. The displays are to be installed between Monday, October 8 and Sunday, October 22 with the opening event on September 22.

The entries will be on display in Lloyd Mann Gardens from Sunday, October 22 through to Monday, November 19, with the demount to take place from Sunday, November 7 to Sunday, November 12. Any enquires should be directed to Uli Liessmann on 0439 822 064 or email to

[hannoveru@bigpond.com](mailto:hannoveru@bigpond.com). Prizes will be: Open, \$1500; People's Choice \$500.

The Ephemera is open to all artists including schools and community groups. Art-works must be original and all exhibits will be displayed in Lloyd Mann Gardens. A maximum of 10 exhibits will compete for the prize money, although other artists can still exhibit even if they are not accepted in the first 10.

The \$300 artist's fee from the Harvest Festival Committee, will be available for each of the 10 successful entries to go towards costs associated with the exhibit. An amount of \$150 will be provided initially and the remaining \$150 upon installation. The entry form must be completed by the due date to be considered for the artist's fee. Successful entrants must produce an exhibit for the Ephemera.

Awards will be announced at the Harvest Festival Launch in Lloyd Mann Gardens on Sunday, September 11, 2022 and all exhibits must remain on display until the end of the Harvest Festival period in November.

## 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



**Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc**  
Supporting local artists with all funds raised staying in the district



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or Phone David (0417 731 089)  
or Richard (0488 255 688)**



## Uli Liessmann comments . .

BELIEVE me, we live in a great town that produces such a great festival such as Sweet Days and Hot Nights.

The town has seen a great influx of travellers and tourists to the betterment of all. I was fortunate enough to meet a gun cane cutter from Bundaberg, who travelled all the way up here just to take part in the competition.

Patrick Putman has been part of the cane cutting competition way back, when it still was held in Dalberg. He achieved second place in 2017. While in the shop, Patrick produced a sugar bag of an assortment of cane knives of various shapes and sizes plus

his favoured one, which he uses in competition with a 60-year-old handle, but with many replacement blades. We wish Patrick and his family all the best in their stay in Home Hill.



REMEMBER last year's Harvest Festival flag display—it was a huge success in Lloyd Mann Gardens. We are going to do it again this year, but only bigger and we need you to be part of this display and donate a flag that represents your culture or your nationality, past or present or just nominate a flag of your choice. You need to get in touch with me (notice: I didn't use phrase reach out to me) as soon as possible to organise flag and flagpole.



WE are nearly into the second half of this year—as they say time flies if you are having fun. Last month, there was mention of changing the name of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce to a name that is more inclusive to today's needs. We, the members of the Chamber, try to look after the needs of Home Hill, in other words, a friendly reminder to the top end. Should you have a problem, share it and we can work it out together.

HAVE you ever had a look at the Chamber's web site (pictured below)? - a very professional and easy site to navigate and look up all manners of information, such as all goings on in Home Hill, if it has



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

happened or it is going to happen, it will be on the web page? All of this is achieved by John Clarke with the assistance of Eliza Licciardello producing this top-class web site and keeping it up to date regularly.

ON the subject of web sites, here is a suggestion only—why doesn't Council have more information on the web regarding TECHNICAL SERVICES, NOTICE OF MOTION, RECEIPT OF PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION and GENERAL BUSINESS all relating to Council meetings? This site is not user-friendly.

THE ABC weekly documentary Back Roads, which I personally think, along with Landline, are the two best shows on TV at the present time. The ABC crew are here to film the Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival first fire of the season, giving first class exposure to the rest of Australia and you can't get better coverage than that. Also, while the ABC filming crew is in Home Hill, they will pay a visit, among other things, to the Burdekin Artisans Community Association. It is located adjacent to The Rock Shop in Seventh Avenue, just in case you have never been there. Treat yourself and pay them a visit, as well as the Rock Shop, you will be impressed, guaranteed.

IF you are a new resident of Home Hill, here are some historical facts that you should or would like to know about the town you now call home. Home Hill was named and surveyed in 1911 by R. A. Souter and Alfred Marshall. It was originally known as Inkerman, after Inkerman Station, a near-by cattle property south of Home Hill. The streets in Home Hill, in the beginning when surveyed, were named from the Crimean War between the British Empire and Russia. Avenues were named after some of Queensland Politicians and the King and Queen at that time. Interestingly enough the map of Home Hill in 1911 showed the streets names and here is a small example, Balaclava Street (a battle and place—now Fourth Street). The Avenues names were Fisher (now Third Avenue named after Honourable Andrew Fisher, a Queensland Politician and Mary and George (King George V and Queen Mary his wife) each had an Avenue named after them Ninth and Eleventh Avenue respectively. The original 1911 map was very different to what Home Hill looks like today. The explorer, Dr Ludwig Leichhardt named the Burdekin River after Mrs Mary Burdekin, widow of Thomas Burdekin, businessman of Macquarie Street, Sydney. Thanks to Glenis Cislowski for the above historical information. A special thanks to John Payne for his positive contribution throughout the year.

These are my views only. To contact me, please phone (mob) 0439822064 [www.uliliessmann.com.au](http://www.uliliessmann.com.au)

- ULI LIESSMANN

# Double grants success for Community Sports Club

THE Home Hill Community Sporting Club has also been successful from the same program with an application for a grant to upgrade their bowling green. The Club has been advised of approval for \$2500 from round three of the Queensland Government Active Clubs Program and \$159,850 from the Queensland Government Minor Infrastructure Program Round One.

The Active Club's Program is part of the state government's 10-year strategy to further enrich the Queensland way of life and build on strong community foundations to deliver better health and well-being outcomes for all Queenslanders.



Overhead view of damage to the bowling green

The Home Hill Community Sports Club President, Trevor Elton received advice from the Minister for Tourism and Innovation and Sport, Stirling Hinchliffe MP that they had been successful with their applications for the grants. With the cost of the replacement green being in the vicinity of \$200,000, the Community Club will have to contribute almost \$40,000 to the work.

The total project cost to replace their synthetic bowling green will be \$199,813 with \$39,963 (20 per cent) to be paid by the Community Sports Club. The Community Club advised that it is hopeful of applying to the Council for a loan to help cover the contribution.

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