

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 92, August, 2023

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A welcome to another new business in Home Hill . .

Giovanna's Cucina is now open at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Tenth Street, Home Hill
Turn to Page 5 to read all about the new business and how you can benefit from Giovanna's authentic cuisine and local products



Fishers protest netting bans

IT HAS been a long time since the Central Business District of Home Hill has been as busy as it was on Saturday, July 15, as hundreds of fishing enthusiasts and their supporters filled the western side of Eighth Avenue and the adjoining Railway Avenue for the start of a Protest Rally against Government Netting Bans and supporting North Queensland's professional fishers. The protest rally, which started in Home Hill, led off from the western side of Eighth Avenue and proceeded in a circle via Railway Avenue before winding its way via the Bruce Highway towards the Ayr Showgrounds, where the Rally was to be held.

Describing the response as "fantastic", organiser, Burdekin Professional Fisherman, Neil Green said the rally "represents a huge show of support

for continued supply of wild-caught fresh fish to seafood-lovers throughout the State".

He said more than 500 people rallied in Ayr over that July weekend with cars towing boats, seafood trucks and other vehicles – well over 150 in total – joining a procession along the highway from Home Hill to the Ayr Showgrounds, where it was followed by a meeting that packed out the showgrounds hall. Mr Green said it was an amazing turnout and showed how much people cared about the issue.

"We had fishers here from as far away as the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Sunshine Coast, plus lots of local business operators and seafood consumers," he commented, with 12 people addressing the audience including local businesses affected by the ban.

"People spoke passionately about how these bans will affect them and their families, not just fishers but also seafood marketers and other related business operators."

He said farmers were concerned about the effect on them, one local business had indicated that they could close after the current Barra season while there had also been nothing mentioned about compensation.

He said the meeting unanimously condemned the Federal and State Governments' decision to ban

long-standing forms of gillnet fishing in North Queensland and called on both Governments to sit down with fishers and other business operators to find an alternative management plan.

They also demanded continued access to fresh wild-caught fish like barramundi and threadfin salmon, Mr Green said. "This is a strong message that the Federal and State Governments' present plan is out of step with public sentiment in North Queensland and is not supported."

He said the Federal and State Governments had issued a joint media release on June 5 – World Environment Day – announcing gillnet fishing would be banned in waters of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

"This is management by media release," Mr Green said. "There was zero consultation with industry before this shock decision was announced."

"Gillnet fishing is completely sustainable and has been conducted in North Queensland waters for more than a century."

"This decision has been taken to mollify the United Nations, specifically the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, or UNESCO."

"Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met with the head of UNESCO a year ago and secretly

Continued on Page 3—



Two of the many signs that expressed the feelings of fishermen at the protest



Part of the long line of traffic that formed the protest procession that started in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill and moved on to the Ayr Showgrounds

The finer points of Home Hill . .

HOME HILL is lacking in a lot of essential services, which results in people having to travel to Ayr to meet their needs—areas such as Magistrates Court services, which we lost when the Court House was closed down and the ability to cash in cans, which was a government promise to all towns, plus many more services. However, how many in our community would have considered we could be without a service station for some time, as the town is at present? In our last edition, Chamber Vice-President, Uli Liessmann reported that the proposed United Service Station (previously BP) says they will open “eventually”, while the other proposed facility planned for the corner of Sixth Street and Eighth Avenue, has Council approval and we understand quotes are being obtained from local businesses—but how far away is it? There is certainly no incentive to buy electric cars in this region, apart from our large distances between towns, because the lack of charging points would make it difficult to keep the new models on the road. Who would go electric when they have to go out of town to “fill up”.

HOWEVER, our town is lucky to have some services that more and more regional communities are desperate for. It would be hard to go a week without complaints from small communities around our nation about the lack of doctors, which would be regarded as a “desperately essential” service. How lucky are we to have the services of Dr Sarat Tata and his team at the Home Hill Surgery, who look after our health (and that of people from out of town, including travellers) seven days a week, while also providing for other areas such as hearing, pathology, dentistry and much more. And how lucky are we to have the sporting organisations that are based in Home Hill, while providing for followers from throughout the Shire—such as the Burdekin Race Club, which will be publicised around the nation on Thursday, August 31, when a TAB meeting takes place on the track—the centre of

WHY is it that some people cannot take pride in their own community and the way it presents itself to locals and visitors alike? The question arose when the pictured pile of prawn shells were found during a morning walk around the town recently. Someone (better known as a “grub”) obviously had a big night on the prawns and when they had finished, they found it easier to dump the remains in a heap under the trees in the vicinity of the Home Hill State Primary School’s Pre-School buildings (of all places). The discovery came only days before the children were due back from the school holidays and it was reported to the Council in the hope that it was removed before the school population got a whiff of it. Unfortunately, before the council workers had a chance to act, a second heap of used shells was dumped in the same area (we surmise it was the same culprits on the second occasion as it was close to the first offence). As a result, the council workers



who knew of only one dumping, removed the second heap (which was out from under the trees) while the first heap, which was further under the trees, remains hidden in the same spot to this day. Luckily, the flies and smell had disappeared before the children were back at school, but it was a low act on the culprits’ behalf to dump their scraps in that area in the first place. How hard would it have been to take the prawn shells to the nearest refuse tip where it would not have had an affect on anyone, least of all our younger generation of school children.

which provides for cricketers on turf wickets and the Tennis Association, which boasts a large number of courts that any larger town would be proud of. And don’t forget the Burdekin Netball Association, which caters for large numbers of players on excellent facilities—plus many more. While we are forced to head out of town for many of our services, we can count ourselves lucky that there are times when our community is ahead of others.

WE need to put out a reminder to many of our residents that there is a need to lock up property and ensure they are not easily targeted by the criminal element that seems to be growing locally, just as much as further afield. It all seemed to be targeting larger regional cities like Townsville and Cairns—but now that those in the southern cities are being targeted, all of a sudden vehicle thefts are being reported in the major media. And Home Hill is not being left out, as we have heard reports of vehicle thefts from private residences and from businesses in the town in the past month. Locking up is important, but those responsible seem to have no trouble gaining entry and give little thought to the

damage they cause to private property. The police catch culprits and the courts let them go—and the perpetrators are well aware of that. What can be done to make our state government take more action against the offenders and give more thought to the costs incurred by the victims—such as having to replace a motor vehicle when they least expect it.

AT LAST the Burdekin Shire Council is moving to update parts of the Home Hill Central Business District, with new, modern seating, refuse bins and garden displays appearing around the shopping centre. The Chamber of Commerce has been calling for the improvements for a long time—especially with the new facilities in place in the Ayr CBD for a much longer time. We can only hope that the council will be able to find more areas in Home Hill to continue their improvements, especially with residents having to pay their rates in the near future.

A REMINDER also to Home Hill Chamber of Commerce members that the annual meeting is to take place on Wednesday, August 30 at the Home Hill Community Sports Club. The meeting has been put back a couple of weeks to allow for officers to be in attendance. - DAVID JACKSON

Positive steps for Bowen water pipeline

The Bowen Pipeline Project, that will take water from the Burdekin River near Home Hill towards Bowen, has taken positive steps forward as the Company announced on July 5, 2023 that it had lodged an application with the Co-ordinator-General for Designation as a Co-ordinated Project.

A spokesman for the Bowen Pipeline Company said the application was under review and the formal application will be lodged following the completion of the review in the very near future.

The Premier's announcement on July 14, 2023 of the massive South Korean Han-Ho green hydrogen export project in the Abbot Point State Development Area, means that the demand for the pipeline's water has now exceeded 85 per cent of designed capacity of 80,000ml per year.

In addition to that, the project has –

Lodged its Commonwealth environmental (EPBC) application;

Secured \$5 million Commonwealth Grant for the completion of a Business Case, water demand and engineering design;

Secured private land required for the pipeline alignment and pump stations;

Secured land within the Abbot Point State Development Area for the pipeline and pump station;

Secured annual water allocations from the Burdekin Falls Dam (permanent water allocations discussions to commence with Sun-water);

The target date for the start of construction is some 21 months away with First Water due 15 months thereafter.

THE Project is a 110 km underground water pipeline commencing 16 km upstream from Home Hill and moving south to Bowen, generally following the brownfield road reserves of the Bruce Highway and will supply 80,000ml of water each year for horticulture, agriculture, industry, tree crops and aquaculture.

The Company indicated that they had bipartisan government support.

The project will allow the creation of a reliable, secure water supply to an area that

grows one-fifth of Australia's vegetables and is Australia's largest winter vegetable growing area, currently growing some \$600m of fruit and vegetables each year.

The project has some 40 investors, the majority being local to Bowen and the Burdekin. The investigation area has some 80,000 hectares of Class A and B Good Quality Agricultural Land, of which some 40,000 hectares of cleared land is available for conversion from cattle grazing to irrigated horticulture/agriculture/tree crops.

The Project will use world class Australian technology for the onsite extrusion of the HDPE pipe in 100+ metre lengths, generating a reduction of some 4000 B double truck movements and reductions of 1,000,000km and 12,000 hours driving on the roads.

One of the major positives for the Project is the significant benefits to the Great Barrier Reef and the Commonwealth Government's Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan, that aims to maintain and enhance the Reef's health and resilience, while allowing ecologically sustainable development.

Strong support for Fishers' Rally

Continued from Page 1—

agreed to 10 high-priority demands from UNESCO, including fishing bans and more controls on farming practices.

"The threat from UNESCO is that, if Australia doesn't meet UNESCO's demands, it will declare the Great Barrier Reef a World Heritage Site that's 'in danger' and embarrass the

Australian Government internationally. This has got the Government running scared.

"The fishing bans have just been sprung on us last month and farmers are yet to see what extra controls will be imposed on them."

Mr Green said he would convey the decision of the public meeting to both the Federal and State Governments



The rally started on the western side of Eighth Avenue and into the main street

and work in conjunction with the Queensland Seafood Industry Association to contact relevant

Government Ministers to try to find a better way manage the gillnet fishery without the planned bans.

TAB racing returns to Home Hill in August

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

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Take advantage of the facilities and pleasant surroundings of the Home Hill race track



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 on course

Increasing support at Chamber meeting

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has received increased support from and its members and guests for its July Social Event meeting at the Home Hill Community Sports Club, with the attendance almost doubled over previous meetings to listen to speakers from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

It was a pleasing result for the Chamber, as the invited speakers, Department of Transport and Main Roads Project Manager, RoadTek, Michael Brennan and Kelly Stolz talked about the Burdekin River Bridge rehabilitation program, its history and its current maintenance program.

Looking back at the history of the Bridge, Mr Brennan said it had been built over a 10-year period from 1947 to 1957 at a cost of £3,200,000 (\$6,400,000) and had held its 60th Birthday celebrations in 2017.

He said the Department of Transport had taken over the maintenance of the bridge and currently there were six full-time employees working on



Department of Transport guest speakers, Michael Brennan (left) and Kelly Stolz (second from right) with Uli Liessman and Doug Chappell (right)

the bridge, with up to 20 employed at any one time and it had taken seven years to completely paint the bridge with four coats of paint.

Referring to the 52 tonne gantry on top of the structure, Mr Brennan said it had been designed in 1990 and installed in 1991. It had been removed in 2010 and 2014 for rehabilitation work and there were plans in place for further removal and rehabilitation work in October, 2023.

At those times, a 220 tonne crane has to be used to remove and install the gantry.

Mr Brennan told the Chamber that among their achievements to date were the installation of steel strengthening top chord cover plates; replacement of all expansion joints; replacement of all drainage structures; the replacement of 480 upper angles; the installation of bird proofing, rehabilitation of main truss pier bearings, removal and replacement of 4000 rivets, replacement of 100 walkway plates; and spot painting.

Currently, the maintenance crew is working on major spot painting; replacement of 40 sloping chord angles;

Top chord repairs and rehabilitation; Annual cyclic maintenance and annual level one inspection.

Future maintenance will include ongoing cleaning, repairs and inspection of the pedestrian walkway; Lower and upper chord painting; Lower gantry maintenance; Ongoing sloping chord replacement works; Upper lateral angle bracing replacement works and Top gantry maintenance and rehabilitation.

The address created considerable interest amongst all those present at the meeting with numerous questions directed at the speakers.

The Chamber is hoping to invite the Department representatives back to a future meeting to discuss future work on the bridge, once decisions are made by the Federal Government on the direction they take on subjects such as a possible second bridge or a bypass of Home Hill and associated crossings of the Burdekin River.

The next meeting in August will be the Chamber's AGM. Because of the absence of some officers, the meeting has been put back to 5.30pm on Wednesday, August 30 at the Home Hill Community Sports Club.

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A love of cooking led to a new business opportunity

A LOVE of cooking has prompted a local resident to turn that love into a thriving business opportunity, as she moved to open *Giovanna's Cucina* – offering a variety of Sicilian and Italian foods to add a new dimension to the businesses in the Home Hill Central Business District. *Giovanna Castorina* has been interested in cooking “since I was six years old”, as she mainly followed in the footsteps of her Nunna, her father’s mother, who was of Sicilian heritage. Married to Justin and with a three-year-old daughter, Ava, *Giovanna* started her cooking career from home, doing what she could while Ava was in Day Care. She has now expanded to new premises at the 143 Eighth Avenue (at the corner of Tenth Street), which had been used in past years by her mother, Dr Narelle

Martin, as a surgery, with opening times on Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm; Thursdays from 9am to 7pm; and Fridays from 9am to 3pm. *Giovanna* also opens on one Sunday per month, depending on how the weeks fall. She described her initial operations as “excellent”, with Lasagne being really popular with her customers. She also supports local suppliers including butchers and the Bakery as well as obtaining produce from local farmers in season. The business also carries other products in stock, such as spices to use in cooking, plants and candles, with everything being sourced locally. Call in and talk to *Giovanna* about her products at 143 Eighth Avenue or phone her on 0439 816 874 .



Giovanna Castorina outside her new business premises at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Tenth Street, Home Hill.

The Menu

- Sugo alla Ragu**—Slow cooked tender chunky beef pieces in a tomato and basil pasta sauce.
- Sugo all Bolognese**—Tender beef and pork mince slow cooked in a red wine and tomato pasta sauce.
- Sugo di Salsiccia Siciliani**—Slow cooked Sicilian sausage meatballs, cooked in a creamy tomato chilli pasta sauce.
- Sugo alla Norma**—Locally sourced eggplant, cooked in a tomato and basil pasta sauce. Traditional Sicilian. Vegan.
- Sugo al Arrabbiata**—Locally sourced chilli, cooked in a tomato and basil pasta sauce. Vegan.
- Creamy Bacon & Roast Capsicum Sugo**—Roast capsicum and smokey bacon, cooked in a creamy tomato pasta sauce;
- Creamy Bacon Sugo**—Smokey bacon, garlic and parmesan cheese in a creamy pasta sauce. Perfect with a filled pasta.
- Good Soup**—Named so by my Father. This soup has all goodness. Slow cooked tender beef and root vegetables. Perfect served with pasta and garlic bread.
- Beef Lasagne**—Slow cooked beef mince in a rich tomato sauce, layered between a creamy cheese sauce and pasta sheets. Ready to be oven baked.
- Vegetarian Lasagne**—Roasted vegetables layered between a creamy cheese sauce and pasta sheets. Ready to be oven baked.



Giovanna displays the range of products that are available through her business premises in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. - *Matthew 18, Verse 5*

Combined effort to host Ambulance conference

MEMBERS of Local Ambulance Committees (LAC) from all over Queensland will travel to the Burdekin over the weekend of August 11, 12 and 13, 2023, as the Ayr and Home Hill LAC Branches host the State Conference for Local Ambulance Committees.

The Conference will commence on Friday Night, August 11 with Registration of attendees and a "Meet and Greet" to be held at the Burdekin Theatre in Ayr.

The actual Conference Sessions will be held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall in Home Hill on Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13, with the sessions beginning at 8.30am each day.

The event is expected to attract up to 200 people from across Queensland, including the QAS Commissioner, Craig Emery.

The Conference will also feature a display comprising of an old Ambulance, a Motorbike and the Educational CPR Van, together with the new Four-Wheel-Drive Ambulance that is now in use at the Ayr Ambulance Station.

That display is open to the public to attend and to inspect on Saturday in the area beside the Memorial Hall, where the former CWA Hall was situated.



Members of the Ayr and Home Hill Local Ambulance Committees pictured in their Burdekin shirts with the Ayr Ambulance Station's new four-wheel-drive vehicle are (from left, back) Ted Bawden, Maria Pitcher (Home Hill), Karen Doyle, Christine Hitchcock (Treasurer) and Brian Sorohan (President) and (front) Marla Bawden, Tricia Achille (Vice President), Merelyn McIntosh (Secretary) and Margaret Sorohan

LAC needs more Home Hill members

WHILE the forthcoming Local Ambulance Committee Conference is being promoted as a joint effort of the Ayr and Home Hill Committees, the fact is that there are eight Ayr members and one from Home Hill – with the two committees operating as one while the Home Hill membership is limited.

Secretary of the Ayr LAC, Merelyn McIntosh explained that they couldn't get a committee in Home Hill, which resulted in the only Home Hill member, Maria Pitcher working

with the Ayr Members until more could be encouraged to join the Home Hill numbers. "The Home Hill accounts still exist and if anything is needed at the Home Hill Station, we would buy it out of that money," she said. Some members of the Ayr Committee have been volunteering for a long period of time, with President Brian Sorohan being on the committee for over 25 years, while Mrs McIntosh has been working for the Ayr LAC for over 22 years.

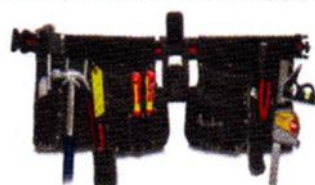
Mrs McIntosh said that Maria Pitcher had been a member of the Home Hill Committee before the Ayr Committee took control of it in 2019. She said it was hard to get people to become involved in organisations any more – a common thought among members of organisations throughout the Burdekin District. If anyone in Home Hill would like to join the Home Hill Local Ambulance Committee, they should contact the Secretary of the Ayr LAC, Mrs Merelyn McIntosh on 0409 825 236.

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Tributes to a racing man

THE Burdekin Race Club has paid tribute to a long-serving member of the Club, Trevor Davies, who passed away recently in Cairns. At a recent meeting, Burdekin Club President, Ricky Gudge described Mr Davies as a "hard-working member of the club" who had been a big loss over the last couple of years. He said Trevor Davies had been the Club's Patron, a Life Member, and the MC for Race Day Presentations and other

activities over a long period of time as well as being the Burdekin Club's representative on the Leichhardt Area Committee. "He absolutely loved racing," Mr Gudge told the recent monthly meeting as members observed a period of silence to remember their member of many years. Trevor Davies also owned many horses, many of which ran under a name starting with "Molongle", a reference to his home of many years near Molongle Creek at Gumlu.

Support sought for local CT Scanner

RESIDENTS of the Burdekin are being urged to show their support for a parliamentary petition, sponsored by Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, calling for a CT Scanner to be installed at the Ayr Hospital. One of the few Level 3 hospitals without a CT Scanner, the Ayr Hospital is currently transferring up to 15 patients per week to Townsville University Hospital for the lifesaving scans after hours.

Mr Last said several attempts had been made to secure funding for this essential equipment. "To date, we have been unsuccessful, but I know that people power can change that," he said. "The lack of a CT Scanner at the Ayr Hospital definitely adds to the stress of a medical emergency and it's quite possible that delays could result in patients not achieving the best outcomes or even cost lives. "There are instances where patients have waited five hours and, frankly, that's not good enough in Queensland in 2023," Mr Last said.

In addition to the support of the 17,000 Burdekin residents, Mr Last also called on Townsville residents to support the petition.

"The benefits of a CT Scanner at the Ayr Hospital are obvious for people in the Burdekin, but there is also a huge benefit for patients and staff at Townsville University Hospital (TUH)," he said.

"By taking up to 15 patients a week out of the queue for CT Scans at TUH, we can reduce the load on staff at that hospital and ensure a better experience for TUH patients.


"Installing this equipment in Ayr really is a win-win for everyone. In terms of a health budget, the funding required is minimal and, in addition to better health outcomes, there are better financial outcomes from a staffing point of view."

Mr Last said by allowing patients to have CT scans 24 hours a day in Ayr, it reduced the workload for paramedics who already serviced a huge area and it meant nursing staff could spend time in the Ayr hospital with patients, rather than in the back of an Ambulance.

"The biggest benefits, of course, are for patients and their families and surely that in itself justifies the expense," he said. The petition is available on-line via Mr Last's Facebook page and paper copies are available to sign at businesses throughout the Burdekin district.



Burdekin Community Advisory Network Chair, Cr Kaylee Boccalatte and Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP





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Community Club success

THE Home Hill Community Sports Club has been celebrating a very successful July, as they hosted The Lindsay Butler Show and Dinner at the Club, as well as taking possession of \$2500 worth of Gym equipment, which will be a welcome addition for those taking part in the Low Impact Club's weekly activities. A crowd of about 50 Country and Western supporters enjoyed the Dinner and the associated entertainment provided by Australia's "First Lady of Song", Shaza Leigh and "The Master of Country Guitar", Lindsay Butler, along with Queensland's own Bush Balladeer, Ashley Cook and the Queen of the Country Piano, Peggy Gilchrist – members of the Butler Showband. The visiting show was featured at the Community Sports Club on



President Trevor Elton with the new Gym equipment

Friday, July 21 with those patrons attending taking advantage of having first-class entertainment appear at a Home Hill venue.



ABOVE—Community Sports Club president, Trevor Elton (right) with visiting entertainers, Lindsay Butler, Ashley Cook and Shaza Leigh

The Community Sports Club has also been successful in obtaining a \$2500 Grant from the State Department of Sport and Recreation to cover the cost of the new Gym equipment, which was delivered recently. With the club hosting the Low Impact Club on Monday mornings from 9am to 11am, those attending will now be able to increase their activities using the new equipment. The classes are open to anyone

right up to the more mature age group. Local residents interested in taking part should phone the club on 0468 313 115 or the Club President, Trevor Elton (0478 642 515). Other activities at the club include the Trimmers on Tuesdays; Arts and Crafts on Wednesday. Bingo starts on September 28. Bowls competitions are on Thursday (Mixed competition) at 1pm; Mixed social from 5.30pm on Thursdays and a Mixed competition is from 1pm on Sundays.

Concert to showcase Brass Band

ANYONE interested in a night of toe-tapping good music has been invited to the Burdekin Theatre on Saturday, August 12, when it come alive as *Burdekin Brass Live 2023* takes to the stage. *Burdekin Brass Live* is an annual concert showcasing the Burdekin Brass and the Thuringowa Brass Bands with the aim of promoting the band to younger generations and encouraging

people to join the organisation. Having hosted its first performance in 2021, the show also highlights the fact that there is more to the brass band than just marching. *Burdekin Brass Live* is a night jam packed with great music, including a variety of songs from Queen, The Blues Brothers, The Wizard of Oz, Dire Straits and many other great bands.



The Burdekin Brass Band in the Anzac Day March in Home Hill

For only \$15 a ticket, prospective patrons will be able to watch not one - but five - amazing bands perform live on stage. Those bands include the Burdekin Brass Band, the Thuringowa Brass Band, the Ayr State High School band, the Burdekin Brass Juniors and the (Burdekin and Thuringowa) Combined Brass Band. To book tickets, be sure to contact the Burdekin Theatre Box Office on 4783 988 before they sell out. **Become a part of the Burdekin Brass Band . . .** The Burdekin Brass Band offers a great learner class for anyone interested in learning a new skill and developing a lifelong love

of music. Learner classes are conducted every Tuesday (of the school term) just before the band's main rehearsal, with a very low cost of \$10 per lesson. That price also includes the hire of an instrument that the student gets to take home and practice with throughout the week. The aim of the learner classes is to teach players the basics of brass music, to then have them progress and eventually join the Burdekin Brass Band. The Junior Brass players all started off in the learner classes and quickly progressed to be able to join the Burdekin Brass Band. They now are able to join in with local performances and

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Thursday TAB race meeting for Home Hill

RACING will take to the Home Hill track again in August – but this time, it will be in a different format, as TAB racing returns to the Burdekin Race Club after an absence of many years. TAB racing means there

will be publicity around the nation for Home Hill, as the races will be broadcast to punters everywhere, with more races, larger fields and increased prize money for owners and trainers. The main difference will be that the races will take place

on a Thursday – August 31, 2023 - and while the number of punters at the track could be down because it is a working day, there will be many more taking their chances with their selections with horses and a track that they may not have seen for many years.

However, the return of the TAB racing will provide a major boost for the Burdekin Club, with the increased levels of prize money attracting racing identities from throughout Queensland resulting in full fields in most events on the day's program.

The Burdekin Club will also feature a six-event program at its Derby Day Race Program on Saturday, November 4, 2023, following the allocation of an extra race because of the inability of the Characters Towers Club to operate on one of its allocated race days.

The local Club has also conducted jump-outs for trainers and owners on the Home Hill track, in conjunction with the Townsville Club.

The jump-outs took place on Tuesday, July 11, with several trainers taking advantage of the opportunity.

Racing recognition for Ray “Drover” Tapiolas

TOP weights dominated the results of the five events at the Burdekin Race Club's July race meeting with four of the races resulting in the top weight passing the winning post first – and the only reason the other race did not go the same way was because the top weight was a 'late' scratching during the afternoon.

The afternoon of racing on the Home Hill track was dedicated to the memory of long-serving local owner, trainer, former President and Life Member of the Burdekin Race Club, Ray “Drover” Tapiolas, who passed away 12 months ago.

With the track in excellent condition following rain earlier in the week, the Burdekin Club received strong support from owners and trainers from throughout North Queensland, resulting in most of the races having capacity fields.

The Tapiolas Family also strongly supported the race meeting, with all races carrying names relevant to Ray Tapiolas' association with the sport, including the main race, Drovers Cup over 1830 metres, while special prizes were also awarded to the leading trainer and jockey on the day.

One of the jockeys in each race also wore the pale blue and red colours that were well known as those used by Ray Tapiolas with his horses.

Several trainers vied for the top honours on the day, with Burdekin Club President, Ricky Gudge recording a win with Old School (Isabella Teh) in the fourth event and a third with Rebel Lake (Nicole Seymour) in the last event; while former Burdekin jockey and current Townsville trainer, Alby Molino won the second race with Smart Thinker (Frank Edwards) and the third race with The Sherpa (Frank Edwards).

However, the award for the leading trainer on the day went to Mackay's John Manzelmann, a strong supporter of racing in Home Hill, who trained the winner of the first event, Victory for Us (Graham Kliese) and the last race, The Driller (Jade Dolan), together with a second with Dawn Rebel in the second event and a third with Police in the fourth race – both ridden by Jade Dolan.

Two jockeys were also in line for the award for the leading jockey, with Jade Dolan riding Whiskey Row to a second place in the first race and followed up with another second on Dawn Rebel in Race Two, a third place on Police in the fourth event and a victory on The Driller in the last event. However, the prize for the top jockey on the day went to Frank Edwards, who combined with Alby Molino to ride the winners of the second and third races, while also riding Medal into second place in the final event of the day.

The Burdekin Club has been receiving good reports on the standard of its track since its recent upgrade and planning is under way for the TAB meeting on Thursday, August 31.



Old School wins the fourth race in Home Hill



Celebrating the victory by Old School (Isabella Teh) were (from left) Ron Scott, Jeremy Caspanello and members of the Gudge family all dressed up for the Family Day activities



Melissa (left) and Denise Tapiolas with jockey, Jade Dolan, stablehand Breanna James, a strapper for trainer of The Driller, John Manzelmann and Chris Tapiolas.



Direct from Dale

Dale LAST MP Member for **Burdekin**

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Parliament Update

FOLLOWING the 2023-2024 State Budget, we now head into Budget Estimates where, as members of the Opposition, we will have the opportunity to question the relevant Ministers over Government expenditure and how our services, like police and health will be impacted. As Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, it's incredibly important to me that our men and women in blue, our orange army and our firies have the resources they need to do their job and have the equipment to ensure their safety.

Cost of Living Measures

AS YOU may be aware, the Queensland Government has announced the Cost of Living Relief package for households and eligible small businesses. With soaring household expenses, I have seen an increase in the number of constituents reaching out to me regarding applying for and eligibility to receive, the newly announced rebates for household energy bills. All Queensland households will **automatically** receive a \$550 'Cost of Living' rebate on their electricity bill in 2023-24. Vulnerable households already receiving the \$372 rebate will receive a \$700 'Cost of Living' rebate. For most households, the rebate will be split into instalments and automatically credited to electricity bills on a quarterly basis. For more information, please call **13 74 68** or visit the Queensland Government website at <https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/programs-and-policies/energy-bill-relief/> . Eligible Queensland small businesses will receive \$650 in the Energy Bill Relief Rebate. The rebate will be split into instalments and *automatically* credited to electricity bills on a quarterly basis, with the first instalment applied by the end of July 2023 and will appear on electricity bills for those eligible small businesses. To see if your small business is eligible, please see the Ergon website link at <https://www.ergon.com.au/retail/business/tariffs-and-prices/small-business-energy-bill-relief-rebate> .

RDA Grant Notice

I HAVE been notified that the Regional Development Australian Round 1 Grant (Townsville and North-West Queensland) is now open for Expressions of Interest. Express your interest today to help grow your community with grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million to support not-for-profit and local government entities in projects that deliver community and economic infrastructure projects across regional and rural Australia. For more information, please contact the federal Department of Infrastructure on 1800 075 001 or visit <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/regional-and-community-programs/growing-regions-program> .

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*

**Burdekin Region Mills
Weekly Production Figures**

Weeks 1, 2 and 3 —ending June 25, 2023

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	94,243	640,391
Pioneer	61,846	325,893
Kalamia	68,003	326,038
Inkerman	64,438	336,343
Burdekin	288,530	1,628,665
CCS		
Invicta	13.83	13.86
Pioneer	14.36	12.92
Kalamia	13.60	13.07
Inkerman	13.85	13.60
Burdekin	13.89	13.46



Comments —

Week 6—WHILE there were only light showers and drizzle, ground conditions remained far too wet for harvesting to occur this week.

All factories were planning to restart operations on Monday, July 17.

Residents are reminded that loco movements continue even during wet weather shutdown periods, so please continue to take care at level crossings and make sure children stay well clear of the cane train corridor.

Week 7—ALL mills restarted on Monday following a two-week wet weather shutdown. Throughput was down for the week due to the lost production time on Sunday and Monday. Rates and cane quality were good considering the wet field conditions. CCS was slightly below budget for the week. The highest CCS sample of 17.5 was from a rake of Q183-P from the Invicta Productivity Area. Residents are reminded to take care around level crossings in wet conditions where visibility may be reduced.



John Tait,
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region

Uli Liessmann comments . .

FIRST off, I would like to thank everyone who reads my column—I really appreciate the feedback, negative and positive. For you other lot that second guess what I am writing about, well that makes writing worthwhile.

LET us start with more positive good news—RADF, through the Council, has approved the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce application for an art installation to enhance the sign '4806' in Eighth Avenue. It will add more colour to our main street.

THE Harvest Festival committee has also received a RADF grant from Council to finish the "Gateway to Home Hill" project in Lloyd Mann Gardens, which consists of the attachment of vinyl photographs of pioneers and current residents of Home Hill affixed to the gateway structure—a statement and tribute to those who came before and the present.

IT IS the height of the tourist season in Home Hill and with the many empty shops backing onto Railway Avenue, yet you cannot park in many spots because of the yellow line marking behind the empty shops. Surely this could be fixed until such time as the shop or shops are occupied, as this would let at least another dozen caravans to park there, which in turn, could mean a few more dollars spent in town.

THE Burdekin Shire Council states in its budget that a massive amount of money (millions) is going to be spent on the Ayr Industrial Estate. Question—is this for the whole of the new estate or parts thereof. I am led to believe that no government funding was available for this project, so does this leave the ratepayer to finance the lot? I truly hope there are businesses out there that will step up to the mark and commit to some of the new blocks that will be on offer. Speaking of industrial estates, where does this leave Home Hill? Do we need one? I think so, just as much as the need is there for a new expansion in Ayr. And how lucky are we, the budget for Home Hill is \$400,000.00 so I believe as published.

Below are some of the budget figures, which I believe are right at the time of writing. The 2023/24 budget includes Water projects—\$460,000 for expansion of the **Ayr Industrial Estate** water supply infrastructure; \$350,000 to complete the **Mount Kelly** water main renewal; First year of a \$200,000 per annum fire hydrant replacement and renewal program, **Ayr and Home Hill**, I hope; \$120,000 to complete the water supply disinfection dosing equipment upgrades, **Ayr and Home Hill**, I hope.

Wastewater projects include—Close to \$7 million to complete the Macro Algal Sewage Treatment Facility at the **Ayr/Brandon** Sewage Treatment Plant; \$800,000 for expansion of the **Ayr Industrial Estate** sewerage infrastructure; \$250,000 to refurbish Trickle Filter at the **Ayr/Brandon** Sewage Treatment Plant; \$120,000 to replace two Sewage Pump Station switchboards at the **Ayr Industrial Estate**. Roads/Drainage Construction projects include—\$870,000 for road-work's construction at the **Ayr Industrial Estate**; \$630,000 for drainage expansion at the **Ayr Industrial Estate**.

Road Design projects include—**Ayr** side: \$80,000 towards the Upper



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

Houghton Road design; \$60,000 for the heavy vehicle bypass reconstruction; \$45,000 for the reconstruction of Colevale Road; \$30,000 for the reconstruction of Toll Road.

Design and Construct projects include—\$550,000 for the new roundabout at Soper and Graham Street intersection **Ayr**; \$200,000 for the reconstruction of sections of kerb and damaged road at the existing **Ayr Industrial Estate**. I am pushing to find Home Hill mentioned.

THE town clock is back up and looking good—the LED display looks brighter. A bit of history regarding the clock—the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce was responsible for obtaining the funding to acquire the clock, which was sponsored by the *Townsville Bulletin* in recognition of Ralph Jackson, for the many years he spent as a newspaperman, editor and owner of *The Home Hill Observer* newspaper.



THE Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch held its mid-year dinner at the Crown Hotel with members and invited guests, David Kelly (left) and Ethan Pengelly (Pictured with RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly). Ethan raised \$550 selling RSL merchandise from a stall at the Home Hill Canefield Ashes, while also setting up a foot-path stall to sell more. Ethan was presented with a display case of Army Hat badges as a token of appreciation. David, who is a member of the Burdekin Brass Band, plays a Cornet and, for the first time this year, he played The Last Post on the ANZAC Day Parade at the Home Hill High School and also at other schools. David was presented with a certificate of appreciation. He will be in great demand for the rest of his life to play The Last Post at future ANZAC day parades. Both these boys have a great future ahead of themselves as future leaders.

THESE are my views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or go to www.ulliessmann.com.au .

- ULI LIESSMANN



Junior section winner, Elora Keating

Sewing talents on show in Rags to Runway

THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. took their popular Rags to Runway event indoors this year, moving from the Netball Courts venue that they have used for the last two years, to the Burdekin Memorial Hall to allow more of their prospective entrants and supporters to attend the event.

The Rags to Runway 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.

There were 28 entries over five categories. As well as the

Open and Junior Sections, there were the Budget Challenge, Racewear Budget Challenge and Accessories.

The Junior winner (sponsored by Wilmar Sugar) was Elora Keating while the Open winner (sponsored by Ergon Energy) was Christine Morton of Mackay.

All funds raised will stay in the Home Hill district supporting the many artists who display their varying forms of artwork at 170 Arts on the Avenue, Home Hill (adjacent to Ashworths Rock Shop).



ABOVE RIGHT—Open winner was Christine Morton (Mackay), with her entry modelled by her sister, Stephanie Micallef (Photo by Saskia Vollema-Creek)

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).

Home Hill Community Sports Club Inc. (0468 313 115) offers roll-up bowls Thursdays and Sundays at 12.30pm with an open bar. Things to do at the Club—**MONDAY:** Low Impact Classes at 9am; **TUESDAY:** Trimmers at 9am; **WEDNESDAY:** Arts and Crafts at 9am. The Club is also available for hire.

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