

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 93, September, 2023

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ABOVE—Carl Vass addresses some of the residents who attended the meeting on crime prevention.

RIGHT— Mark Vass speaks to the crowd watched by Burdekin District Police Officers.



Patrols again proposed to defeat crime

THE growing crime wave that is spreading throughout our nation has not missed the Home Hill region with reports in recent months of cars being stolen and vandalism resulting in rising costs for innocent members of the community. However, the local community is not sitting back and taking what is being dished out by the young criminals, as a meeting held in the town in August moved to follow in the footsteps of the town's predecessors and set up patrols to watch out for possible problem areas.

Many years ago, a crime wave in Home Hill was met with the formation of patrols by local residents, who took turns in looking out for problem areas and, working in conjunction with the local Police officers, would phone the officers when they saw a problem and any situation was handled by the officers.

Following the theft of a number of cars in the Home Hill town area, one of the victims decided to take action to try and rectify the situation by calling a meeting of town residents to put forward his experiences with alleged offenders.

Home Hill engineering business owner, Carl Vass told the gathering of over 100 residents that he was working late at his workshop at around 6.30pm when he couldn't find his keys when he went to lock up the shed.

"I had a spare key in my office and grabbed that and headed home without much thought to it, as I figured that I had left my keys somewhere in the workshop," he said.

"That night I was woken by a phone call at 10.29pm from the police reporting my work vehicle was left in the middle of the highway at Rossiter's Hill."

Mr Vass said he quickly drove into town to check the workshop where the yard gate had been driven through with the work vehicle.

"Police removed the vehicle from the road and I had it towed to the mechanic the next day," he said, where it needed a new gearbox and clutch Mr Vass said he was told Police had arrested four youths the next day, with three let off with warnings and another one was arrested as he had numerous warnings before.

Through his own investigations, Mr Vass said he had found out the names of the alleged offenders. He concluded by telling the crowd that "the system is not working".

"We are a proud community, who have a small percentage of the population tarnishing our reputation and I think, with a little help from all, we can stop this problem so that our community can feel safe again," he said.

"I for one will be doing all in my power to keep

our small but supportive community safe."

Mr Vass reported several instances where businesses had experienced problem areas in the town including –

Youths hanging around the front of a shop harassing customers;

A business having to keep the door locked to keep unwanted youth out and then are harassed through the window;

The ice machine at a business suffering \$10K from someone urinating over the machine, as well as vandalism;

A fire started in the stairway of a business and thousands of dollars having to be spent to install roller shutters to keep them out.

The call for support from the community drew an excellent response from residents of the town, including business owners and people who have been affected by criminal activity.

It was alleged that the town's IGA had been broken into three times while another resident said that the kids were not getting the message and suggested a curfew could be brought in.

Police officers from Home Hill, Ayr and the Ayr CIB were present at the meeting and provided comments in response to suggestions put forward from the crowd.

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HOME HILL seems to be missing out badly when it comes to grants to locally-based organisations. The Burdekin Race Club is moving along at a positive rate thanks to the efforts of a small but energetic committee who have been able to build up a good bank account through their voluntary efforts. As a result, they are seeking grants which would allow them to finish their grandstand to allow for rooms on top and a cover over the public seating section. However, when Racing Queensland handed out their grants, it is believed the club's voluntary efforts in making positive moves forward have not been rewarded with the grants the club needs to undertake the grandstand upgrade. Then there is the \$56 million offered in this year's Queensland state budget to "provide new and upgraded PCYC facilities across Queensland". Unfortunately, Home Hill does not have any PCYC facilities and there are certainly no benefits for Home Hill Youth in what the budget described as "back to basics programs in areas of high need". There are PCYC facilities in Ayr, but there doesn't seem to be any efforts through that organisation to try to include the youth of the Home Hill community in their activities. Young people in our community cannot just get on a bike to ride to the PCYC and in most cases, parents are not in a position to take them over to Ayr to participate on a regular basis. Could it be that the PCYC may look at using some of the budgeted funds to help to transport the youth of Home Hill to Ayr to join in the programs "like after-dark basketball and boxing" as was named in the budget. Like the Race Club, the Home Hill community will have to sit and wait to see if they may be included in the PCYC activities.

The finer points of Home Hill . .

THE Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch, led by its Secretary, Allan Petersen, has undertaken excellent work in marking the graves of First World War and Boer War Veterans, who have passed away in the town since their war service and were left to be forgotten in unmarked graves. In an excellent ceremony held at the Home Hill Cemetery near the end



of August, a Dedication Ceremony took place to highlight the graves, which now carry a commemorative headstone and bronze service plaque. There was a good crowd present for the event, including families of the ex-servicemen and women involved in the ceremony—and the graves were recognised with due honour through the current service personnel who were part of the service. And for anyone in the local community who would also like to recognise the ex-servicemen and women, it can be easily done by going to the Home Hill Cemetery and looking for the small Australian Flags that now highlight where each of the newly marked graves are (as can be seen in our photo). Allan Petersen and the RSL have to be commended on their efforts in ensuring the war service of these forgotten servicemen and women are not forgotten in the future.

THE ink had not even dried on our comments in last month's issue on the lack of service stations in Home Hill when we noticed that work was under way on the upgrading of the former BP Service Station into a United Service Station. We are certainly not claiming responsibility for that happening but it is good to see that the work is under way as it is very welcome and it will make life a lot easier when the facility is up and running. Similarly, it was pleasing to see work moving forward on upgrading the Commercial Hotel on the section on the top floor that was damaged in Cyclone Connie back in 1959. The bonus on top of all that would be if work was to start on the proposed service station at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Sixth Street but that is a wait-and-see situation. What would help would be if the Council could find a way to do something about the derelict shop beside the Doctor's Surgery, that is currently in its hands after it took control of it for unpaid rates. The shop did not sell in an auction and in its current condition, it would not take much for a wayward cigarette butt or match to set it up in smoke—

and that would affect the entire block.

THE call went out last week for the people of the Home Hill community to show an interest in the Local Ambulance Committee by putting their hands up to reform the group in the town. The Conference of State Local Ambulance Committees, which was held in the Burdekin in August, was successfully run by the "Ayr and Home Hill Local Ambulance Committees", but with only one member of the Home Hill Committee, obviously the majority of the effort came from the Ayr members. The Home Hill community once boasted a very active Home Hill LAC, which was prominent in fundraising when they held stalls in front of the former ambulance building at festival time and on other occasions. Unfortunately, like a lot of organisations, volunteer numbers have fallen away and there is a desperate need for local residents to show an interest again and offer their assistance. We all depend on our Ambulance officers and it is important that they receive all the support that can be offered. If you do have some time available, contact the Ayr Secretary and add your name to the one current Home Hill member of the LAC.

- DAVID JACKSON

Later installation for 2023 Ephemera entries

FANS of the annual Home Hill Harvest Festival Canefields Ephemera will have to wait until October to see the ideas put forward by entrants in this year's event, with the installation date for entries put back a month

Organiser of the 2023 Ephemera, Uli Liessmann has advised that he has nine entries for this year and with the installation date put back, it means that there is no actual launch in September, as has been held in previous years.

Mr Liessmann said he was unsure if there would still be an opening night for the Ephemera and they were still considering when they would have the announce-

ment of the winning entries.

Harvest Festival President, Mark Vass said they had changed the launch time this year because of the change in the installation date for the Ephemera entries.

The Canefields Ephemera is described as Home Hill's sculpture festival.

In its sixth year, it is a much-loved and anticipated annual event.

It has continued to grow over the years to its current standing as an outdoor sculpture exhibition, which is sure to impress local and state artists exhibiting works.

This year will be a follow-on from the outstanding exhibition that was held last year.



Duncan Julyan's depiction of "Picnic at Hanging Rock" was the 2022 winner

Patrols suggested to stop local crime

Continued from page 1—

And several speakers made it clear that they were supportive of the Police efforts in the area.

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last was unable to be present at the meeting, because he was in Brisbane where Parliament was sitting.

However, he did have his staff at the meeting and in his report in this issue of *The Home Hill News* he commented that he had attended a meeting with the organiser prior to the event to listen and discuss the issues and possible solutions at hand for the Home Hill community.

Other comments from the people in the crowd included suggestions that 'Police are doing their job but there is no penalty for what happens', other business operators had been left with thousands of dollars of damage; and 'the IGA are copping the brunt of it'.

A Police Officer said they could not put a curfew on the children, as had been suggested, as a curfew was used in other states but that was not the case in Queensland

A member of the crowd said people were scared about the situation, with a suggestion that social media was to blame.

The audience raised the point of the patrols that were used in the town more than 10 years ago, which were successful

It was suggested that they start a night watch against the offenders – "in the past, they had the phone numbers of local police officers and if something happened, they called them – It did work".

One person questioned 'what an eight-year-old would be doing in his yard in the early hours of the morning' and suggested that "They've got more rights than everyone else".

Mark Vass asked who in the crowd would be willing to join a night watch, resulting in a large proportion of those present putting their hands up. However, the Police officers present warned that they had to be careful of not going down the road of vigilanti-ism – "We don't want to be charging any of you," a detective commented.

That drew a comment that "We've got no rights – the system is rotten to the core – something has got to happen".

Questions were asked about what rights the people had if they went on a night watch – but police responded that it depended on the circumstances – they could defend themselves but it had to be reasonable.

A Detective said security was a major issue in the community and as police officers, they are also victims. "We cannot answer a lot of questions in a public forum – you have to be so careful."

A lot of people in the crowd were passionate about the need for something to be done and Police indicated that they wanted to work with the community.

Another suggestion referred to the housing shortage in Townsville, resulting in people in the city moving down to the Burdekin.

The meeting ended with members of the crowd queueing to place their names on the list for the patrols of the town and on the day after the meeting, Carl Vass reported that 80 responses had been received from people wishing to be involved in the patrols with more coming in through texts.

More big race days ahead on the local track

Enjoy a day out under the big trees at the **Home Hill Race Track** as the **Burdekin Race Club** features their forthcoming events—



Derby Day,
Saturday,
November 4

Race meeting
Saturday,
December 9

Five 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

Busy October ahead for Festival program of events

THE Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee is finalising its planning for the forthcoming 2023 festivities, as its program comes together with a meeting to be held at the beginning of September.

The festivities will commence later in September, with President Mark Vass indicating that they would be having a smaller launch for the Festival at a venue still to be decided on, although they had set a date for the event to be held on Sunday, September 24. More information on the event and the activities involved will be decided on at the September meeting.

Following on to the launch date, the Festival Committee has put together a calendar of events in its program, starting with the annual Students' Ball to be held on Friday, October 6. Sunday, October 8 will feature the annual sporting clash between Home Hill and Ayr, as teams representing both towns vie for the annual honours in Cricket, Netball and Rugby League at the Home Hill High School's sport-



The Home Hill Lions Club Queen entrant, Holly Da Corte in the 2022 Parade ing fields.

The Festival Program will then move to the Ironman Challenge, to be held on Friday, October 20, followed by the King and Queen of the Hill, as athletes endeavour to conquer Inkerman Hill, south of Home Hill, on Saturday, October 28.

The Sport of Kings comes to prominence on Saturday, November 4, for the annual Derby Day celebrations at the Home Hill Race Track, where the

Burdekin Race Club will highlight its Ladies Day activities in conjunction with one of the most important days on the southern Spring Racing Calendar.

Golfers will then take to the Home Hill Golf Course on Sunday, November 5 for the Home Hill Club's annual Ambrose competition.

The community's younger generation will feature in the Festival Program on Wednesday, November 5,

when it holds the annual Pet Show and associated 'Bolt for Bucks' at Watson's Green.

The major festivities of the annual Home Hill Harvest Festival come to fruition on Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11 with the presentation and crowning of the Harvest Festival Personality and Charity Queens at the Gala Ball to be held on Friday night at the Burdekin Memorial Hall.

And the month-long feast of festivities reach a climax on Saturday, November 11 as the Grand Parade winds its way down Eighth Avenue into Watson's Green, where the annual Street Party continues into the evening with food, entertainment and carnival attractions to keep everyone entertained well into the night. The Festival Committee will have a busy time through October as they bring the program of events to a head, with the support of the Home Hill, Burdekin and North Queensland community.

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Dedication ceremony for unmarked graves

THE Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL has completed a major project of its own making, with a World War I Dedication Ceremony held on Saturday, August 26 to mark 41 grave sites in the Home Hill Cemetery with commemorative headstones and bronze service plaques.

The Sub-Branch planned the ceremony to commemorate those who had been laid to rest in the Home Hill cemetery who had served, particularly in the Boer War and World War I and who had no recognition as a War Service grave site.

Funding for the project came from The Department of Veterans Affairs, the RSL North Queensland and the Home Hill RSL.

Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly told the crowd at the Dedication Ceremony that some years ago, one of their members, Allan Petersen, while collecting information for a book he was writing, came across War Graves in their local cemetery which were not respectfully recognised as War Service Grave sites.

Mr Kelly said that 56 grave sites had no identification as War Serviceman's graves.

"There were 25 that had no indication of a burial site – just covered with lawn and appeared to be vacant plots, 16 had a family monument, but no recognition of a War Serviceman's grave. There were also 15 British soldiers, who came to Home Hill during and after the war and due to war-related illnesses, died and were laid to rest in our local cemetery," Mr Kelly told those at the ceremony.

He said "a lot of hours" had been spent by Mr Petersen collecting the Diggers' names, rank, serial numbers and where they served in the Army, Navy or Air Force.

"Together with Wayne Saldumbide and his secretary from the Burdekin Shire Council, Allan and myself went over the information, making sure it was correct before ordering the plaques," he said.

"Once the information was correct, some of the RSL members had a working bee to mark out where all the

War Veterans grave sites were located.

"The cement bases were moulded by Sub-Branch members, while local undertaker contractor, Ken Wright supplied the polished headstones and bronze plaques.

"The installation of all the plaques was a combined effort of two students from the High School, Ken Wright and Sub-Branch members," Mr Kelly said.

The RSL Sub-Branch President told the gathering at the ceremony that it had taken a few years, with a lot of effort and hard work to complete their project.

"We are all honoured as members of the Home Hill RSL to have had the opportunity to complete this project for the community of Home Hill."

"We pay our respects to our Fallen Diggers," he said.

All the dedicated grave sites are marked by an Australian Flag. Also participating in the Dedication Ceremony were the RSL Padre, Andrew Baildon, who thanked the RSL Sub-Branch for the development of the memorial sites, while the members of the Home Hill Choral Society had entertained with hymns during the afternoon.

A special guest at the ceremony was Graham Gilmore, a grandson of World War I veteran, Frank Gilmore and a representative of the Gilmore Families, said he was born in Home Hill as he thanked the RSL Sub-Branch members for their efforts, while RSL State Vice President, Bill Whitburn OAM gave "Special Thanks" to Allan Petersen for his efforts in writing a book about the war veterans.

Also taking part in the ceremony were Guest of Honour, Lt Col Dave Silverstone, CSC of the 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, from Lavarack Barracks in Townsville, Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Wilcox, State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last. The ceremony also included the laying of wreaths and the playing of The Last Post and Revellie while the Burdekin Brass Band played the National Anthem.



Participating in the official Dedication Ceremony were (from left) Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Wilcox, Home Hill RSL officials, secretary Allan Petersen and President Richard Kelly, Member for Burdekin Dale Last, Lt Col Dave Silverstone, RSL State Vice President, Bill Whitburn OAM, and RSL guests, Graham Gilmore and NQ RSL District Treasurer, Rocky Hema.

RIGHT: Woods Family members (from left) Peter and Gail Woods and John Woods at the grave of Frederick Woods where a new plaque has been added.



BELOW: Laying wreaths at the Cenotaph during the ceremony at the Home Hill Cemetery were State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP and Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Wilcox.



Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

And I tell you, you're Peter and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- Matthew 16, Verse 18



Race Club officers give notice ahead of AGM

THE President of the Burdekin Race Club, Ricky Gudge (pictured below) has given notice that he will be standing down from the position at the Annual General Meeting in September so that he and his wife, Leanne can undertake a long-held plan to travel throughout Australia for two years.

Speaking at the August meeting of the Club, Mr Gudge said he had enjoyed being the President, but he felt the time had come for someone else to take the reins. "Change is good as it allows for new ideas, which, hopefully, will enhance our club," he commented. "So if anyone



has an inkling of leading the club, please arrange to be nominated" at the annual meeting.

Mr Gudge advised that Treasurer Leanne Gudge had submitted the club's books for auditing, which takes

around six weeks. As a result, the Annual General Meeting would be held on September 26 to allow time for the books to be returned.

Mr Gudge told the meeting that he and his wife, Leanne would be going on a working holiday next year. That is something we have always wanted and are estimating to be away for approximately two years," he said. "I envisage returning quite regularly by plane as Leanne will be missing the grandkids by the time we reach Gumlu. I know in our absence, the club will be safe hands and we would love to get back involved when we return."

The travel plans by Mr Gudge and his wife, Leanne (pictured below) who is the club's Secretary/Treasurer means that the Race Club will also be looking for replacements to fill those positions at the forthcoming AGM.



Derby Day preparations

DERBY Day preparations are well advanced at the Burdekin Race Club, for the meeting to be held on Saturday, November 4, leading into Melbourne Cup Day, which will be held on Tuesday, November 7.

Described as "the second biggest day on the Burdekin Race Club's annual program", Derby Day attracts large numbers of ladies to enjoy an afternoon of racing which last year offered six races, a fashions bonanza and a feast of entertainment features.

Truenorth Interiors will again be sponsoring the race day, with the Club offering thanks to the Business operators, Ron and Helen Scott.

A feature of the day will be the running of four Memorial events, recognising past members and supporters of the Burdekin Race Club, including Cody Prizeman, Russ Reguson, Trevor Davies and Justin Scott.

The newest Memorial Race remembers the Club's Patron, Life Member and friend, Trevor Davies, who passed away recently.

No grant money for Home Hill

BURDEKIN Race Club President, Ricky Gudge has expressed his disappointment at the lack of Racing Queensland (RQ) grants being awarded to the local club after the finalisation of the last round of grants.

"It pains me to say that we missed out again," he commented. "After earlier correspondence with RQ, I was quietly confident that we would receive something, but it wasn't to be."

After conducting a meeting in December 2022 on behalf of the Charters Towers Club, who were unable to race on their track at the time, Mr Gudge announced that the Burdekin Club would again be conducting a Charters Towers meeting in December, 2023.

"If I had known the results of the last round of grants beforehand, the decision may have been very much different," he told club members.

The grants come as part of 'Country Club Asset Funding'. Following the expiry of the Country Racing Program Deed, Racing Queensland committed to providing \$3 million per year for country racing club infrastructure repairs, maintenance and asset replenishment/replacement.

Mr Gudge told the August meeting that their Burdekin Club was proactive "and it seems, because we are financial, that is to our detriment".

"Just imagine what would be in place here with that sort of monetary injection," he said.

Several clubs in the Leichhardt Region, which also includes the Burdekin Race Club, were successful in receiving grants towards projects at their facilities.

The Burdekin Club has plans for major projects to enhance their facility in Home Hill and has been seeking grant money from Racing Queensland so that they can proceed with the work.

Racing Queensland's representative in North Queensland, Warren Williams recently inspected the Home Hill track and "gave it a big thumbs up," Mr Gudge said.

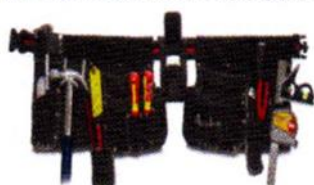
His parting comment was that he was going to suggest that more race dates should be allocated to Home Hill because of the standard of the track.

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Successful return of TAB racing

MEMBERS of the Burdekin Race Club were kept busy in the lead-up to the return of TAB racing at the Home Hill Race track on Thursday, August 31. With an eight-race program and excellent support from owners and trainers from throughout the north, many hours of volunteer work was contributed by members to ensure everything was ready for an excellent day of racing. Prior to the race meeting, Club President, Ricky Gudge urged members to lock in Sunday, August 26 for a working bee, with whipper-snipping being the "main focus" as well as a "neaten up" around the club buildings.

While a large crowd was not expected at the Thursday race meeting, club officials urged members to invite anyone they could to the meeting to try to boost crowd numbers.

That paid off as the crowd in and around the grandstand and in the betting ring was pleasing for the club's first TAB meeting in some time.

However, numbers were down as expected, but so too were the numbers at other televised race days at week day race meetings.

The big difference was the appearance of television crews and interviewers with microphones talking to winning owners and trainers at the end of every race.

The Home Hill parking area for horse transports was overflowing with various forms of transport of all sizes filling the area.

The number of races was increased from seven to eight because of the large

number of nominations and it still resulted in emergencies on the fields including seven in race eight.

Home Hill trainer and Club President, Ricky Gudge was successful in the last race of the day with his eight-year-old gelding, Keighley Sun, which again showed its liking for the track on which it is trained, with a narrow win over Fudging (Ashley Butler) and Listen Listen (Scott Sheargold).

The victory also brought up a second win on the day for jockey Carl Spry, who was also successful on Our Heart Throb in the second race.

Race results were – Race 1: Barramundi Country Plate, 1000 metres, 1. Forcesome (Scott Sheargold); 2 Risked It (Carl Spry), 3. Balexia (Tessa Townsend). Time: 57.45. Race 2: Cape Upstart Plate: 1000 metres, 1. Our Heart Throb (Carl Spry), 2. Mount Margaret (Erin Molloy), 3. Laide (Nathan Day). Time: 58.28. Race 3: Liquid Gold Plate: 1460 metres. 1. Sonofthebeast (Fred Edwards), Mista Omega (Scott Sheargold), 3. Lady Rain (Jeff Felix). Time: 1-29.05. Race 4: Fields of Fire Handicap: 1460 metres: 1. Love on Sunday (Adrian Layt), 2. Brad (Ashley Butler), 3. Zouvilla (Pietro Romeo). Time: 1-29.76. Race 5: Sweetest Town Handicap: 1830 metres: 1. Sarnia (Erin Molloy), 2. Medal (Fred Edwards), 3.Recondite (Ashley Butler). Time: 1-54.96. Race 6: Home Hill Handicap: 1000 metres:1. Midas Star (Pietro Romeo), 2. Our Addiction (Graham Kliese), 3. Always Written Off (Adrian Layt). Time: 56.76. Race 7: Sweet as Sugar Handicap: 1000 metres: 1. Boomshakalaka (Nathan Day), 2. Writtle (Adrian Layt), 3.Hallside Hammer (Rebecca Wilson). Time: 56.36. Race 8: Silverlink Handicap Handicap: 1180 metres: 1. Keighley Sun (C. Spry), 2. Fudging (Ashley Butler), 3. Listen



The television production van that sent the Home Hill racing around Australia



Our Heart Throb (C. Spry) wins the Cape Upstart Plate ahead of Mount Margaret and Laide.



Winner of the Liquid Gold Plate, Sonofthebeast, returns to scale ahead of second placegetter, Mista Omega



The trainer of Race Three winner, Sonofthebeast is interviewed by a TAB racing reporter in front of the camera

HOME HILL NEWS

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(From September, 2022)

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Join the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce TODAY to save on advertising costs

Chamber increases executive members

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has increased the size of its Executive Committee at its recent Annual General Meeting, with the appointment of another person, a much-needed female, to join its numbers.

Accepting the invitation to join the existing members, President David Jackson, Vice President Uli Liessmann, Secretary Robert Antoniazzi and Treasurer John Clarke will be Meghan Wilson, an employee representative on the Chamber for Wilmar Sugar, who has taken on the new role. President, David Jackson thanked Ms Wilson for accepting the position, commenting that she would add a younger voice to their committee discus-

sions, while also providing a female view, which the executive have been trying to get for some time.

A small number of members attended the annual meeting, including State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, who took over from the President to carry out the election of officers for the ensuing year.

That election resulted in the only change being the election to the executive of Ms Wilson.

The Executive for the 2023-24 year will consist of – President David Jackson, Vice President Uli Liessmann, Secretary: Robert Antoniazzi; Treasurer: John Clarke and executive member, Meghan Wilson.

In presenting his annual re-

port, Mr Jackson described the past year as one of change with the Executive Committee making decisions resulting in the monthly meetings becoming more informative for attendees, with the introduction of a guest speaker every month to encourage more members to attend and without having normal meeting procedure taking place.

He said The Chamber continued to benefit from the ongoing success of the publication of the town's newsletter, *The Home Hill News*, with a regular income coming from the advertisers, who support the newsletter and an increasing readership, both through the sale of hard copies through various venues and free copies offered through the Chamber's website.

Mr Jackson told the meeting that the Chamber was continuing to look after the interests of Home Hill and watched for issues that were detrimental or for areas where benefits can be obtained.

"The latter includes seeking grants that will help move the town forward, such as adding to the 4806 sign in the centre of the Central Business District, which should attract the interest of tourists". However, he said their efforts to upgrade the gradient of the drainage gutters in the CBD

had not been successful, with support from Member for Burdekin, Dale Last.

"Hopefully, at some time in the future, something positive will come from the efforts to improve the parking along the eastern side of the CBD," Mr Jackson said.

He said it was pleasing to see announced developments in the town, including the change of the BP Service Station to the United Brand, with the start of improvements to that business now taking place; the possibility of another Service Station being built on the land now occupied by the former Home Hill Co-operative Traders; and new businesses such as the Prawn Shop, the new Laundry in the town and Giovanna's Cucina, while work is proceeding on improvements to the Commercial Hotel.

Overall, the Chamber President said they had a good working group on the executive with Vice President, Uli Liessmann, Secretary Robert Antoniazzi and Treasurer John Clarke. "My sincere thanks go to them all for their dedicated contributions to the future of the Chamber and the town of Home Hill as a whole," he concluded. The meeting decided to leave membership fees at \$100 for the 2024-25 year – the same as for the coming year.



The 2023-24 leaders of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce are (from left), Secretary Robert Antoniazzi, Treasurer John Clarke, Vice-President Uli Liessmann, new executive committee member Meghan Wilson, President David Jackson and Dale Last MP.

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Parliament Update

The recent Estimates Hearings highlighted areas where the current government has failed to deliver. There are many issues affecting regional areas, like Home Hill that have not received the attention they deserve. As your elected representative in the Queensland Parliament, I will continue to hold the current government to account until these issues are addressed or there is a change in government.

Crime Rally in Home Hill

Recently, a victim of crime, local businessman Karl Vass organised a community meeting held at the Home Hill Skate



Park on August 2, 2023. The meeting was attended by a number of Home Hill and other Burdekin locals, business owners, local police and council representation. This was an opportunity for the community to share their experiences, to support each other and to vent their frustrations with youth crime. As I was at Parliament on the day of the meeting, I attended a meeting with the organiser prior to the event to listen and discuss the issues and possible solutions at hand for the Home Hill community.

The frustration being felt in Home Hill is similar to what is happening throughout Queensland. Under the current laws, there are no consequences for actions and the judiciary can only sentence young offenders to detention as a last resort. Clearly, the current government puts more emphasis on the rights of offenders than the rights of victims. It is true that all community members have a role in addressing youth crime and the people participating in community patrols are definitely playing their part. However, all community members need to ensure that their actions don't result in them ending up on the wrong side of the law.

As I have for several years now, I will continue to advocate for victims of crime and to call on the current government to make the necessary changes to address this issue. To date unfortunately the current government has refused sensible suggestions that would make a real difference and ensure people could again feel safe in their own homes.

Choral Society Dinner

I was lucky enough to attend the Christmas in July event in Home Hill on Friday July 21, 2023. It was great to see the locals getting into the spirit by providing an impressive dinner and a entertaining show for all who attended. Well done to the Choral Society and all who assisted in making it a memorable evening.

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 11 and 12 —ending August 26, 2023

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	147,049	1,337,417
Pioneer	70,127	651,711
Kalamia	74,364	646,069
Inkerman	82,244	659,628
Burdekin	373,783	3,294,825
CCS		
Invicta	14.92	14.14
Pioneer	14.74	13.62
Kalamia	14.53	13.60
Inkerman	14.74	14.01
Burdekin	14.77	13.90

Comments —

Week 11—Throughput was just under 400,000 tonnes this week – the highest throughput for the season to date. All four mills exceeded the budget for the week with Pioneer recording its highest throughput for the year. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now just under 3M tonnes. CCS increased again this week with the dry and cool conditions but is still slightly below budget. The highest CCS sample of 17.6 was from a rake of Q240-P in the Invicta Productivity Area. As always, please remember to use your train brain and take care around our cane rail network. Our cane trains are working around the clock, seven days a week.



Week 12—Close to 375,000 tonnes of cane were processed for the week. This was down on the previous week, due to extended cleaning and maintenance intervals at Pioneer and Invicta mills. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin factories is now just under 3.3M tonnes. CCS increased again this week with the dry and cool conditions, but is still slightly below budget. The highest CCS sample of 17.5 was from a rake of Q183-P in the Invicta Productivity Area. As always, please remember to use your train brain and take care around our cane rail network. Our cane trains are working around the clock, seven days a week.



John Tait,
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region

Burdekin host to Local Ambulance Committees

REPRESENTATIVES of Local Ambulance Committees from throughout Queensland took prominence in the Burdekin as the Ayr and Home Hill Local Ambulance Committees (LAC) hosted the annual State LAC Conference in the two towns on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 11, 12 and 13. Following a Welcome in Ayr on Friday night, the Burdekin Memorial Hall was the venue for the Conference, with a large crowd of delegates present, including the State Ambulance Commissioner. Local residents would have been certain of what the event was being held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall, as prominently displayed in front of the complex was an old Ambulance vehicle from the Charters Towers district, a motor Bike ambulance, which many locals would not even have known existed and the new 4WD Ambulance that has been added to the Ayr Station's vehicles. Secretary of the Ayr LAC, Merelyn McIntosh described the weekend as being "very successful, as a lot of information on health and

the Queensland Ambulance Service was discussed". She said the event was very educational for everyone, "as it was focused on Rural and Remote, as what we are up here in North Queensland". Mrs McIntosh said the benefit of the Conference showed that a small Committee can run a State Conference without the help of the larger committees. She said the State Ambulance Commissioner, who attended the Conference, sent an email thanking the Local LAC Groups for holding the conference and commented on how well the conference was run. Conference Chairman, John Furnell said the Ayr and Home Hill Local Ambulance Committees had run "an impressive State Conference, with many positive comments in regards to its organization, topics of discussion, food and entertainment". He said it was a pleasure to be involved as Emcee for the event and to meet with the Ambulance Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service personnel, assistants, Members of Local and State Governments and, most importantly, the many wonderful volunteers from across the state. The next LAC State Conference will be held in Bundaberg in two year's time.



Attending the Local Ambulance Committee Conference in Home Hill were (from left) Ayr LAC President, Brian Sorohan, Conference Chairman John Furnell, Ayr LAC Secretary Merelyn McIntosh, Queensland Ambulance Commissioner, Craig Emery and Assistant Commissioner of the Northern Region, Matthew Green

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or Richard (0488 255 688)**



**Look out
for those
cane trains**



wilmar

Uli Liessmann comments . .

I HAD the pleasure of attending the opening of the Burdekin Art Society Annual Exhibition towards the end of August. The Exhibition was well attended, very professionally presented and a credit to the volunteers, one and all.



THE Council has done an excellent job on the new shelter in the Memorial Park on the Ninth Avenue side—it looks good.

THE Council quotes a moderate 4 per cent increase in basic charges. Therefore, guess my look of surprise on receiving my rates bill, in particular, the water charges for the first 1000/kl that went from .35 cents to 40 cents per kl. That is approximately a 13 per cent increase. Over 1000/kl now is \$1.60/kl. What the rate was on my previous rates notice was, I can't say, as it was not printed on the rate notice.

I HAVE had the misfortune of receiving a large water bill with my rates. My first thought was I had a water leak that I had not detected, but on checking, there were no leaks. The next thing I did was to call Council and explained the problem and I was told how accurate their



new smart metric water meter is and yes, there have been problems from time to time in the past. Now I believe I have a faulty meter. The conversation with Council went on to basically tell me that I would have to pay approximately \$160 to have their smart meter

tested. I was utterly speechless. My question is—does Council own this smart meter or do I own it and if Council owns it, how come I have to pay to get their asset tested? Unbelievable, a blatant bare-faced rip-off! I've never heard of anyone having to pay to get someone else's property tested. It's Council responsibility to maintain their equipment in good working order at all times.

ON August 26, at 3pm, the Home Hill Sub Branch of the RSL held a Gravesite Dedication Ceremony at the Home Hill Cemetery, which was attended by RSL dignitaries from the North Queensland area, Politicians both Federal and State and Lt Col. Silverstone from Lava-rack Barracks. I must also mention Cr John Furnell, who gave a short, but a brilliant speech. In fact, all speeches were short and sweet and to the point, which was the Gravesite Dedication. A special mention also to the Burdekin Brass Band and please accept my apologies if I've left anyone out.

ON August 18, 2023, at the Deep Creek Camping grounds near Millaroo, both the Home Hill and Ayr RSL Sub-Branches hosted a small crowd recognising the selfless contributions of Vietnam Veterans. They were marking 50 years since Australia ended its involve-



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

ment in the Vietnam War—and they are grateful that their legacy of camaraderie, care and compassion lives on. During Australia's 10-plus years of involvement in the campaign, throughout that decade of service, 523 persons gave the ultimate sacrifice and more than 3000 were wounded or fell ill.

IT IS equally important that we also acknowledge that from the outset, the Vietnam War was considered politically and socially divisive. Many veterans were not treated with the respect and honour they deserved upon returning home. We must do what we can to acknowledge and honour the selfless service of our Vietnam Veterans. We are lucky to call Australia home, but it is only the freedoms we so readily enjoy that are thanks to the veterans and their families who have gone before us. To this, we must say "thank you." I also acknowledge, with thanks, Major General Stephen Day DSC AM, the State President of RSL Queensland

A LARGE appreciative crowd was present at the Burdekin Theatre on Saturday, August 12 to listen to and enjoy the Burdekin Brass Band, the Thuringowa Band and the Ayr High School Band presenting their third annual concert. Many others also performed on the night and the entertainment was second to none. We were also treated to great singers and had the pleasure to listen to David Kelly and Jye Ravizza each playing solo.



ANOTHER roundabout is being built in the 'capital of roundabouts' in North Queensland. Now I have no problem with roundabouts, in fact, I like them as among other things, they keep traffic flowing in a safe and orderly fashion. A question—is road safety more important on the north side of the river than on the south side? This side of the river also has needs for roundabouts, how about putting a couple in next year's budget or if all else fails, draw a round circle on the road surface. This would free up more money for the north side and you never know, the white circle might catch on. This could also be a vote catcher for the next election.

These are my opinions and views. To contact me, please phone (mob) 0439822064 www.uliliessmann.com.au

ULI LIESSMANN

Radio station Sweet FM recognition for long-serving volunteers

BURDEKIN community Radio Station, Sweet FM has recognised the contribution provided over many years by four of its long-serving volunteers. Sweet FM Chairman, Uli Liessmann (pictured centre) took the opportunity recently to present plaques to Dave Giffard (right), who worked in production and Bill Lawson (left), who was a presenter. Mr Liessmann said both were volunteers for many years and "I thank them both for their contribution". The radio station will also be recognising Stan Sibson, their advertising manager, following his retirement after many years of good service to the station, as well as Malcolm Kirke, after many years of presenting classical music. Both of these gentlemen will be presented with an appreciation plaque at a later date.



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 of the former canecutters that cut the Burdekin district's sugar cane crop before the advent of mechanical cane harvesting.