

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 94, October, 2023

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\$200,000 boost for Community Sports Club



Community Sports Club member, Bob Young (left) and Club President, Trevor Elton on top of all the former grass green material after it was pulled out from the old green (in the background) with the assistance of some of the ICOMPLY Pacific Island Workforce, who live near the Sports Club

THE Home Hill Community Sports Club has been given a huge boost from this month, as a new synthetic bowling green is installed to replace the first synthetic green that has been in place since that first one was installed to replace the original grass green. The Club was successful in June, 2023 in receiving a grant of \$160,000 (plus GST) from the Queensland Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, as part of their Minor Infrastructure Program round one.

That amount covered 80 per cent of the total project cost of \$200,000, with the Community Sports Club having to fund the remaining \$40,000, which is a 20 per cent co-contribution for the installation of the green.

The work will replace the first synthetic green that was installed for a variety of sports that were planned to be played at the club.

Members of the Community Sports Club, under the direction of Club President, Trevor Elton, commenced work earlier this month preparing for the installation of the new green, as they removed parts of the old green and levelled the surface.

As well, further work was carried out by members, assisted by workers from the ICOMPLY Pacific Island Workforce, who were employed by the contractor onsite preparing for the installation of the new green, to physically remove the former synthetic green.

Contractor for the project, Bruce Warwick from the Sunshine Coast Company, Prosport, said once the removal of the old green was completed, they would water and level the sand base and check the height before putting in metal edging to the correct height. He said the new surface was Australian made polyethylene yarn, made for playing bowls.

It took about five days for the old green to be removed and Mr Warwick said it would take a further five days to install the new green.

It was expected that it would take about 14 days all up to remove the former green and install the new green, ready to be played on.

When the Community Sports Club came into being, it was planned to play other sports, such as soccer, on the green. However, that did not work out with damage caused to parts of the green.

Festival fun set to start

FOUR Queen entrants have been nominated by various local sponsors for the 2023 Harvest Festival Personality and Charity Queen titles, which will be decided after the entrants face the judges prior to the annual Gala Ball to be held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday night, November 9.

This year's Queen entrants are -

- ◇ Dayna Linton, representing the Burdekin Netball Association;
- ◇ Ally-Jo Farry, representing the Home Hill Lions Club;
- ◇ Zoe Oaks, representing the Home Hill Rotary Club; and
- ◇ Kaitlyn Warren, representing the Home Hill Prawn Stop.

The sponsoring organisations have already started fundraising for their entrants, ahead of what will be a busy period of festival events throughout October leading into the finale at the Gala Ball and the Street Party on Saturday, November 10.

The Festival events in October will be led by the popular Students Ball, conducted by the Home Hill High School's Parents and Citizens Association on Friday night, October 6.

Following immediately on that night, the annual rivalry between Home Hill and Ayr will be resurrected at the Home Hill High School's sporting ovals on Sunday, October 8, when the keen competition in cricket, netball and rugby league will take place.

The Ironman Challenge will take place on Friday, October 20, while athletes from this district and further afield will challenge Inkerman Hill, as they compete for the King and Queen of the Hill titles on Saturday, October 28.

The Harvest Festival continues into November, with the Burdekin Race Club featuring its Derby Day Program on Saturday, November 4, with strong fields and large numbers of ladies enjoying the Ladies Day's festivities.

Continued on Page 7

IT IS pleasing to see that at least one part of the Townsville media is taking notice of the fact that Home Hill does exist, with a feature story across two pages in a recent edition of the city's daily newspaper highlighting the fact that "Home Hill's where the heart is". The paper featured three of our new businesses—Home Hill News & Coffee, The Prawn Shop and Giovanna's Cucina—that have opened recently in the Central Business District and which were also featured in *The Home Hill News* in our recent editions. Suggesting that the three businesses "serve up success with innovative food to satisfy residents and visitors", the report said the "three business owners decided to throw their loyalty in with Home Hill, capturing a customer mix of Bruce Highway traffic, hungry shift workers and rural residents". Maybe it is the start of more interest being shown in our community from all sections of the northern media—or could it be that the new editor of the daily newspaper has strong family connections with Home Hill. Taking into account *The Home Hill News* came into being because the town was being ignored completely by all sections of the media, it is definitely a move towards a better future for the town.

WITH a State Government election due in Queensland in just over 12 months, it is a good time to remind the state government that our town still does not have the cash for cans facilities that were promised for all towns of our size and larger in previous elections. There are towns smaller than Home Hill that have the facilities and their residents easily collect a 10 cent return on their used cans. It has been some time since we have mentioned the fact that Home Hill has missed out badly on the promised facilities—but there were discussions with the operators of the Ayr facility, including two staff members attending a Home Hill Chamber of Commerce meeting to tell their story of what they could offer. However, some offerings have not come into effect, such as promoting

The finer points of Home Hill . .

WHEN it comes to sporting contests between Home Hill and Ayr, there has always been a little bit of parochialism between the two towns—and what is wrong with that parochialism showing its head, especially when it is for the benefit of a local organisation such as the Home Hill Harvest Festival? It was always evident in games between Home Hill and any one of the three Ayr teams, when the Burdekin



opening times in the town so that residents do not go over to Ayr on a wasted Monday trip, only to find the facility closed for the day. There are rumours now that local residents cannot obtain the bins any more to collect their tins. It will make life a lot easier for Home Hill residents if we had our own collection point and put our residents on an even keel with all other towns in the state.

HOME HILL has always been a community to do things to help itself through problem areas and the latest action against crime is a classic example of how the town has come together to find a solution. The mix of people who have put their hands up to undertake patrols throughout the town area during the night covers a variety of occupations from business people to cane farmers and labourers—male and female—and they are working well together to ensure the crime level does not rise. One area of concern raised at their recent barbecue was support from police. And that raises the question of when the Home Hill Police would get back to normal under the direction of a local Officer-in-Charge. For some time, the town's OIC, Sgt Steve Wilson, has been seconded out to relieving duties in other areas, resulting in other officers being put into the position. People who attended the original public

Rugby League existed a few decades ago. A few years back, it was suggested that a Town of Origin game be played between the two towns in rugby league (pictured) - and it proved quite popular with the players and the large crowd that turned up to watch the games and of course, to support their own Town of Origin. Since that first game was played, our local cricketers and netballers have also joined in and the popularity continues to grow. With no Water Festival this year, there is even more reason to support the event, which is to be held on Sunday, October 8 at the Home Hill High School sporting fields. Harvest Festival President, Mark Vass has suggested that local residents "keep your eye out for the coffee table booklets" that will detail the festival program that is ahead of everyone through October and into the early days of November. Now is the time to plan for that fun program of events for the whole family.

meeting praised the efforts of police in trying to catch the alleged offenders. Without demeaning the efforts of the local relieving officers, it is important that our town has its own OIC in the position so he and the town as a whole know who is leading the way in any situation. We understand Sgt Wilson has retired from the Police Force and it is to be hoped that the position is filled as quickly as possible, so that the Home Hill Police staffing can return to normal.

IT MAY come as a surprise to local residents when they receive this edition of *The Home Hill News* about a week earlier than usual. That has come about because of events in the south that we are attending, resulting in travel arrangements being made that mean leaving town before the end of September. It also means that some events being held in the town, such as the Home Hill SES Open Day (page 10) on September 23 may be over before the town's residents even realise that it is on. Everything will return to normal for the November edition and we will be back in time for the Harvest Festival activities taking place throughout the latter part of October and into November and you can read all about them in the November *Home Hill News*. Remember, if you have events happening in Home Hill, tell us all about it so we can pass it on to the Home Hill community.

- DAVID JACKSON

Community praise for PCYC “invaluable support”

WHILE we have been commenting in *The Home Hill News* for some time on the need for more activities for youth in Home Hill, including having access to the facilities offered to their counterparts in Ayr through the PCYC, we have received little to no response – until now, that is. This week, we received the following comments from a Home Hill resident, who preferred not to be named. She referred to our remarks in the September edition of *The Home Hill News* regarding the Burdekin PCYC and said she felt “compelled to share with you the consistent and invaluable support that the Burdekin PCYC has provided to our community, with a particular focus on the youth of Home Hill and the students at Home Hill State High School, over the past nine years”. She said the Burdekin PCYC had taken a leading role in organising and facilitating a wide range of programs that had significantly benefited our youth. “These programs include ‘Lessons for Learners’, ‘Braking the Cycle’ and ‘Get

Set for Work’. Notably, the Burdekin PCYC goes the extra mile by co-ordinating transportation for Home Hill’s youth to ensure their participation in these programs.”

Our informer said that since 2017, Sergeant Andrew Sherrington from the Burdekin PCYC has been diligently collecting Home Hill High School students for the “Active Mates Program” once a week during the school term, providing a safe return home for these students.

“This program has also been extended to Home Hill State Primary School, where it is conducted as a morning session before school hours,” she said.

“I’m pleased to report that Sergeant Sherrington recently successfully delivered Queensland Blue Light’s ‘Blue EDGE’ program in collaboration with the Queensland Police at Home Hill State High School.

“This marks the second successful implementation of the program at our school,” she said. “The eight-week, twice-weekly program, running from 7am to 8.30pm, culminates in a full day of activities in Townsville, followed by a graduation

event involving students and their families.

“Having personally witnessed the positive impact of these programs on the youth of Home Hill, their families and the broader community, I hold in high regard and deeply appreciate the genuine efforts of the Burdekin PCYC in actively engaging Home Hill’s youth in the activities of the Youth Club.”

In response to the comments we received, we advised her that her response was the first we had received over the long period of time that we have been trying to get some form of activities in Home Hill, without travelling to Ayr, for all our

youth, without success.

We are aware that Sergeant Sherrington has been in the Burdekin for a long time, both as a policeman and in his role with the PCYC.

We also suggested that it would be interesting to find out if the youth that do not attend the local schools were also accommodated in such an excellent way.

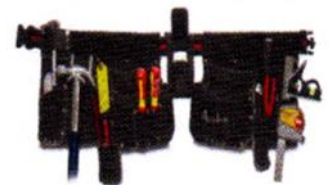
We were advised by our informer that the ‘Lessons for Learners’, ‘Braking the Cycle’ and ‘Get Set for Work’ programs were accessible to and utilised by the Home Hill youth who do not attend school.

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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

Community patrols find crime in our streets

THE move by a large group of Home Hill residents to follow in the footsteps of the town's predecessors and set up patrols to watch out for problem crime areas in the community took its first steps in August as over 40 nominees set out on patrols on a regular nightly basis.

Instigator of the patrols, local engineer, Karl Vass, who has been the victim of young criminals after having his work utility stolen, hosted a barbecue at his business premises in September, to talk to the people involved about what has been happening in the past month since the patrols started.

The people who put their names down to take part in the night patrols include a variety of men and women of all ages and occupations, including businessman people, farmers and young workers all with the common aim of

helping to keep the community crime-free.

A four-page "activity form" was handed out to those at the barbecue, highlighting the nightly reports from the patrol groups and the alleged suspect activities that they had come across in their three-hour period in the street.

The reports covered the period from August 12 through to September 10 and there were very few dates in the period where no reports of illegal activity were recorded.

The reports covered many areas of the Home Hill township as the patrols drove around the streets and reported illegal activity including several motor bikes and cars stolen, alleged successful and unsuccessful attempts to break into premises and even instances where the watch vehicle was being followed by alleged offenders and "giving them the



Some of the local residents who are involved in patrols of Home Hill's streets, at the barbecue in September

finger".

In some instances, the illegal activities were reported to police and 000 and the patrollers also suggested to some suspects that "they should go home".

However, in one response from Police, they "emailed the car to reinforce they do not condone vigilantism" – which the officers at

the original meeting in the Home Hill Park also told the crowd.

The barbecue provided clear evidence that Home Hill was not devoid of crime, but whether they are able to help curb the amount of crime is open to question, especially if they do not have the direct support of the Police Force, as was the case years ago.

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Groper Creek boat launching facilities “the most preferred”

By JEANETTE GARVEY

GROPER Creek’s popularity has been confirmed with the Hinkson Esplanade boat launching facilities identified as “the most preferred” by boaties overall in the Burdekin, with \$640,000 proposed for future upgrades. Maritime Safety Queensland data released last week in its Queensland Recreational Boating Facilities Demand Forecasting Study 2022 has recommended the construction of a two-lane ramp with centralised queuing structure (if deemed feasible) in place of Groper Creek’s southern (downstream) ramp, along with a new parking area to allow for 40 CTU (car-trailer unit) spaces.

The report, prepared by BMT Commercial Australia Pty Ltd, provided a summary of existing facilities within the Burdekin Local Government Area (LGA), projecting forecast usage for management and development of facilities over the next 20 years.

Recommendations are assigned a priority ranking from one to four, indicating if they are required immediately or in the next five, 10 or 15 years respectively, with Groper Creek assigned a Priority three rating.

In the state-wide survey of 79 areas, no immediate Priority one recommendations were made for the Burdekin. However, Cromarty Creek at Giru was given a Priority two status, while Clare Weir and Kierle’s Landing were considered Priority four. Study statistics revealed Groper Creek was utilised by an overall visiting and local fleet of 23.5 per cent comprising 28.2 per cent resident fleet (locals) and 17.8 per cent of visiting fleet; Cromarty 15.5 per cent overall (9.7 per cent locals, 22.6 per cent visitors); Barramundi/Morris Creek 12 per cent overall (4.6

per cent locals, 20.8 per cent visitors); Ocean Creek 11.6 per cent (16.1 per cent locals, 6.1 per cent visitors); Jerona 10.6 per cent (7.2 per cent locals, 14.7 per cent visitors); Wallace Creek 10 per cent (12.6 per cent locals, 6.9 per cent visitors); Plantation Creek 7.2 per cent (7.4 per cent locals, 6.9 per cent visitors); Philips Camp 5.7 per cent (8.7 per cent locals, 2.1 per cent visitors), and Hell Hole 4 per cent (5.5 per cent locals, 2.1 per cent visitors).

Identifying strong inflows from the Townsville LGA, the report states the “resident fleet has a strong preference for the facility of Groper Creek, while the visiting fleet prefers the facilities at Cromarty Creek and Barramundi Creek, given their proximity to Townsville”.

“This (Groper Creek) is a very popular facility for the local community and visitors and the amenity could be increased by providing a floating walkway or fixed sloping walkway,” the report said.

Groper Creek Caravan Park Manager, Jeanette Garvey questioned the amount of money spent on yet another survey, with no mention of jetty rehabilitation and protection works.

“None of the recommendations made for the Burdekin have been implemented since the last survey of all boating facilities in Queensland was done in 2017; and the latest report even admits that only 10 per cent of the state-wide recommendations have been delivered in part or full in the 5 years since the delivery of the report,” she said.

“It’s common knowledge that the Burdekin has the most boat registrations per population base in the state and this latest report is pushing for upgraded facilities closer to where Townsville boaties launch within the Burdekin



Shire.

“What about the locals who pay annual registration fees?” she asked.

“It’s great to see Groper Creek identified for upgrades to cope with future demands, but it doesn’t appear like any funding is in the pipeline for immediate upgrades and maintenance works, especially when the report states that a flood current investigation will need to be conducted to determine the viability of a floating walkway or fixed sloping walkway as a queuing structure.”

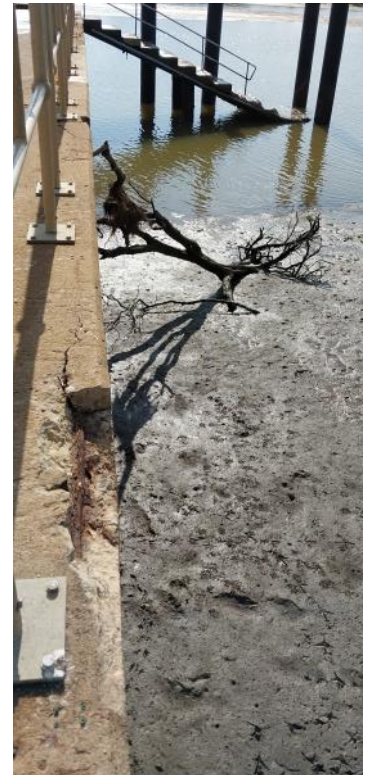
In the Home Hill Boat Club’s submission in October 2022, Mrs Garvey said the need to reinforce and improve the Groper Creek jetty, along with channel maintenance, was also pointed out. “Through fund-raising and voluntary assistance, sand dredging was performed by the Home Hill Boat Club in the 1960s through to 1990, to allow boats to navigate to deep water.

“However, the past 30 years has seen the channel fill again with no maintenance being performed and access is now restricted,” the club submitted.

“Both ramps are currently highly silted up with mud and some debris clearance is also necessary to allow safe entry, particularly when crocodiles are sighted.

“Groper Creek would simply not be Groper Creek without its jetty. “Steeped in a rich history from the early days of Kanakas loading sugar, fishermen hauling in large Gropers and barges delivering

The pictures (above and below) show damage to the Groper Creek jetty.



goods to nearby Inkerman Station, it is hoped future generations will continue to enjoy the iconic structure.

“The jetty is a popular platform for bait-casting and prawning all year round and could be reinforced to make it safer, particularly at the step-down area where passengers embark/disembark,” the submission read.

Mrs Garvey said the Home Hill Boat Club looked forward to working closely with the local and state authorities to accelerate works and achieve the best possible outcome to benefit the Burdekin community for decades to come.

New owners for Malpass Hotel as it nears its centenary

AS THE Malpass Hotel in Home Hill closes in on its centenary celebrations in 2024, the new Owners/Managers of the Hotel are progressing on improvements to the premises which will improve the facility for locals and visitors alike.

The new owners, Lilibeth and Jun, have moved to Home Hill after close to nine years in the position of owners and managers of a Hotel and Bistro on Palm Island.

They moved to Townsville while they looked for another business in North Queensland that they could take on, before taking a liking to the Malpass Hotel.

Lilibeth said they pulled into the car park of the hotel while passing through Home Hill and phoned a real estate agent, who offered to contact the owner. They then waited until the owner came back to town and talked to them about it.

As a result, they took over the hotel on April 27 and opened for business on April 29 and since then, they have been making improvements to the premises, starting with the installation of secure fencing around the site, installing stronger doors and locks and improving access through the drive-through bottle department and making the steps to the upper level more secure.

At the present time, major works are



The Malpass Hotel on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Tenth Street is under new ownership

being carried out on the top floor of the hotel, with improvements to the toilets and bathrooms, including the two facilities (male and female) facing Eighth Avenue and one facility on the Tenth Street side (uni-sex).

That work involves tiling all the floors, installation of vanity units in each room, removing a door in each room that faces the outside verandah so that the only access to each room is through a door in the inside hallway and painting of all rooms and the verandah.

With a new laundry business now open in Eighth Avenue, the hotel has also removed the coin operated laundry facilities that were previously available in the upper floor, which creates more space for toilet facilities for guests.

The couple said the hotel is always open from 11am each day of the week with lunch and dinner available from Monday to Saturday and the bar is open from 11am into the evening. Lunch only is available on

Sunday, with closing time on that day at 2pm.

They have three qualified chefs available to satisfy the tastes of their customers and functions can be organised by arrangement with the management.

Lilibeth and Jun are looking forward to welcoming Home Hill residents into the hotel to meet them and to enjoy everything they offer in all parts of the facility.



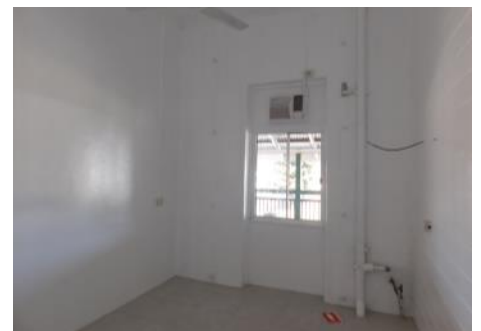
Enjoy a cold drink in the Malpass Hotel bar



Owners and managers, Lilibeth and Jun in the Drive-in bottle department where they have painted new direction arrows on the driveway



New owners, Lilibeth and Jun in the pleasant surroundings of the Malpass Hotel restaurant



New work under way on the rooms on the top floor of the hotel

Look out for those cane trains

wilmar

Council opens new Home Hill playgrounds

TWO new playgrounds have been opened in the Home Hill area by the Burdekin Shire Council.

The new playgrounds include a sensory trail in the Home Hill Park, between the Community Kindergarten and the Burdekin Brass Band Hall, as well as a new playground at Groper Creek, which had new equipment installed in the previous financial year.

The new playground and trail offer a range of play options, which the council says is designed to inspire creativity, imagination and active play and locals and visitors to the region would now have even more

reason to visit and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

The works are the latest addition to the community's facilities, adding to the list of family-friendly attractions and creating a great destination for locals and tourists.

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the playground and trail were a fantastic addition to the community and offered something for everyone.

She said several parks in the region would also undergo transformative upgrades and receive new facilities as part of the Council's 2023/24 Budget.



The new playground at Groper Creek, which was installed in the last financial year



The new sensory trail in the Home Hill Park between the Community Kindergarten and the Burdekin Brass Band building

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law on the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them

- Matthew 5, Verse 17

October start to Festival fun

Continued from Page 1—

The Home Hill Golf Club's annual Ambrose competition will take place on Sunday, November 5 while the younger generation will feature in the annual Pet Show, in association with the Bolt for Bucks on Watson's Green on Wednesday, November 8.

The final events of the 2023 Festival will include the Gala Ball at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday, November 10 and the Street Party around Watson's Green on Saturday, November 11, following the Grand Parade along Eighth Avenue.

Festival President, Mark Vass has advised that the Festival will once again have the "famous country music singer, Luke Geiger, coming back for the street party this year".

Mr Vass said they had nearly finalised all of their sponsors, as he advised the community to "keep your eye out for the coffee table booklets".

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Health promotion directory

BURDEKIN residents have been invited to embrace a season of renewal and well-being, with the launch of 'Burdekin Spring into Life', which is an online health directory.

To access the 'Burdekin Spring into Life' health promoting resources, visit <https://bit.ly/SpringintoLife>.



Direct from Dale

Dale LAST MP Member for **Burdekin**

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Parliament Update—

AT THE last Sitting of Parliament, I spoke about bushfire preparedness and the need to act now. According to the Australian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), an increased risk of bushfire has been identified for large areas of Queensland and with several fires burning in our region at the time of going to print, it's a timely message. Prepare, do not procrastinate, that is the warning from AFAC and I urge everyone to be proactive and prepare for this bushfire season.

I also want to acknowledge the work performed by our volunteer members who give up their time to protect our community. Some handy hints are to prepare an Emergency Kit and store it in a safe, accessible place; review and practise your Emergency Plan and teach your children how and when to call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. In addition, now is the time to clean up around your property and remove excess flammable materials such as long dry grass, dead leaves, and branches. For further advice, please visit <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/planning-and-compliance/bushfire-planning> .,

Successful Gambling Community Benefit Fund Recipients—

I AM pleased to announce that five community groups in the Burdekin Local Government area have been successful in their grant applications for Round 116 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF). For more information on these grants, please visit <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/communitygrants>, email cbf@justice.qld.gov.au or phone 1800 633 619. Please feel free to contact my office for assistance regarding referee requirements on 47 670 500 or burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Successful groups in the Burdekin local government area were—

- Brandon Bowls Club, Upgrade Amenities and install Storage Shed;
- Burdekin Singers and Theatre Company Inc, Upgrade Air Conditioning and install Solar System;
- Bur Del Co-Operative Advancement Society, Upgrade and fit out Kitchen;
- Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation, Renovate Facility;
- Clare State School Parents & Citizens Association, Upgrade Facility.

THANK you to all who signed the petition for a CT Scanner for the Ayr Hospital. We will be submitting the approximately 2000 signatures to Parliament for tabling. (Pictured is Cr Kaylee Bocalatte with Dale Last MP)



WE ARE 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	145,259	1,761,689
Pioneer	67,810	878,753
Kalamia	73,718	875,429
Inkerman	86,428	914,524
Burdekin	373,215	4,430,396
CCS		
Invicta	15.53	14.43
Pioneer	15.35	14.03
Kalamia	15.27	13.90
Inkerman	15.19	14.29
Burdekin	15.37	14.21

Comments —

Week 14—Just under 370,000 tonnes of cane were processed this week. Throughput was just on budget although there was no time lost for wet weather. The season to date total for the Burdekin mills is now just over 4.0M tonnes, which represents just under 50 per cent of the total forecast crop. CCS increased again this week with the dry conditions but is still very slightly below budget. The highest CCS sample of 18.0 was from rakes of Q240-1R, Q240-2R and Q240-PL – all in the Invicta Productivity Area. Ahead the upcoming school holidays, parents and carers are urged to talk to their children about the dangers of playing around the cane rail network. Please remind children to stay well away from rail lines, cane bins and rail bridges.



Week 15—Just over 373,000 tonnes of cane were processed for the week. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now just under 4.5M tonnes, which represents about 54 per cent of the total forecast crop. CCS increased again, due to the ongoing dry conditions, and is now slightly over budget. The week's highest CCS sample, of 18.1, was from rakes of Q240-2R in the Invicta productivity area. With the school holidays now under way, parents and carers are urged to talk to their children about the dangers of playing on or around the cane rail network and, in particular, rail bridges.

John Tait,
Cane Supply Manager,
Burdekin Region



Uli Liessmann comments . .

THE picture says it all—in this case, the silhouette between the posts of 4806. This project was a long time in the making, but it will add to aesthetics to the centre of Home Hill. The silhouette depicts a man and a woman sitting at a table having a rest at the Comfort Stop. Here I must thank the Home Hill Chamber for obtaining the grant money from RADF, through the Council and the Queensland Government, for making this installation possible.



I HAVE been asked on numerous occasions by travelers—Is there a notice board anywhere in town? Council is going to do an upgrade at the Comfort Stop sometime soon and I am just wondering if Council could include such a notice board at this site. A good spot would be up on the men's amenities block towards Railway Avenue.



THE Council has put up a great LED notice board (pictured) at the old courthouse and I am wondering if this could be used to notify the public of upcoming local events across the shire. This will also benefit the older generation, who might not have access to a computer or Facebook.

THE latest Home Hill tourist attraction is the very filthy



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

Council footpaths in Eighth Avenue—all for a want of a footpath sweeper (like the one pictured below) to service not only Home Hill, but the rest of the Burdekin Shire. I mentioned this many years ago in Council, with a big negative response. The accompanying



photo is next to the Doctors Surgery (in Eighth Avenue) where patients must walk through this mess to enter the surgery. Nowhere in the rest of the shire will you find these appalling conditions. Enough is enough, we do not live in a third world country where entertainment is more important than public wellbeing and health. Footpaths need cleaning regularly, not only when there are complaints.

ON September 12, Radio Sweet FM held its Annual General Meeting with a new president and secretary elected and some new executives, which puts a fresh look to SWEET FM. The station is about service to the Burdekin public, which it supplies quite admirably. The last year ran smoothly, as there were no major incidences within the workings of the station, except for some electronic equipment, which was replaced due to failure and age of the equipment. And not forgetting the many advertisers who play a major part in this station, to keep it viable and on the air. I am also not forgetting, of course, the volunteers for their ongoing commitments to this, our local radio station.

These are my opinions and views.

To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or go to www.uliliessmann.com.au

ULI LIESSMANN

Fun-filled SES Open Day for Home Hill community

THE Burdekin Shire Council has made preparations to host a Home Hill SES Open Day, that has been described as “a fun filled event for the entire community”.

The event will take place from 9am to 12pm on Saturday, September 23.

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the event would offer a fantastic opportunity for residents to engage with their local SES (State Emergency Service) and prepare for potential emergencies in an enjoyable way. The SES Open Day plans to feature a variety of activities and attrac-



tions, a free sausage sizzle, face painting for the kids, raffle tickets offering a chance to win a generator and an opportunity to meet the local volunteer emergency service crews,” the Mayor said. Attendees would also be able to obtain a disaster management pack, which pro-

vide valuable resources and information for emergency planning.

The community was encouraged to attend the open day on Saturday, September 23, from 9am to 12pm at the Home Hill SES (pictured) at 84 Eleventh Avenue, Home Hill.

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.