

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community



Issue No 95, November, 2023

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## Is your picture on the Gateway to Home Hill?



IS YOUR picture among the hundreds that are displayed on the new and unique "Gateway to Home Hill" that is now open for all to see in the Lloyd Mann Gardens in Eighth Avenue.

You would have to be unlucky if your picture is not there because the photos on display date back to the early days of the town, including the work on construction of the Burdekin Bridge, to the early years of the Harvest Festival, which has been entertaining our community for over 60 years, early school classes and organisations and events that have been prominent in the town through to the present day.

Home Hill businessman and artist, Uli Liessmann is the artistic mind behind the display, which was first started in 2022 and is now almost completed, thanks to the construction efforts of Scott Appelt, who put the ideas together and included all the photos in vinyl, allowing them to be open to all types of weather.

Mr Liessmann offered his sincere thanks to the Burdekin Shire Council and to RADF and the Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee who both contributed to the cost of the project.



Harvest Festival Queen entrants who will face the judges ahead of their crowning as Personality Queen and Charity Queen are (from left) Dayna Linton (Burdekin Netball Association), Ally-Jo Farry (Home Hill-Ayr Lions Club), Kaitlyn Warren (The Prawn Stop, Home Hill) and Zoe Oaks (Home Hill Rotary Club)

## Festivities reaching a climax

THE annual Home Hill Harvest Festival will rise towards its climax in the early weeks of November, as the wide range of festival functions that commenced in October continue through to more programmed events that will conclude with the Gala Ball on Friday and the Street Party planned for Saturday, November 11. Four Queen entrants have been nominated by local sponsors for the 2023 Harvest Festival Personality and Charity Queen titles.

They 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.

Those entrants will face the judges prior to the annual Rotary Gala Ball,

which is to be held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday night, November 10, ahead of what will be a continuing busy period of events into November, finishing with the finale at the Street Party on Saturday, November 11.

The November program includes the Burdekin Race Club's Derby Day Program on Saturday, November 4, with strong fields and a sold out crowd of patrons enjoying the Ladies Day's festivities.

The Home Hill Golf Club's annual Ambrose competition will take place on Sunday, November 5, while the younger generation will feature at 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 Home Hill Rotary Gala Ball at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Friday, November 10 and the Street Party on Watson's Green on Saturday, November 11, following the Grand Parade that will move along Eighth Avenue.

WHAT chance is there for the word “Burdekin” to be seen as bringing the Shire together when there seems to be people and organisations in the district who seem to be hell bent on causing friction between different parts of the community? There has always been parochialism existing between opposite sides of the river but in some ways, that has been a good thing, especially on the sporting field. However, when changes are made that create animosity instead of that parochialism, then it does not help in bringing the “Burdekin” together. Our attention was drawn recently to a move to change the name of the Ayr Chamber of Commerce to Burdekin Chamber, when a “Chamber of Commerce” already exists in Home Hill—even if the change leaves out the words “of Commerce”. The Home Hill Chamber is giving thought to making a change of name as well, but their aim is to reference the work it does in the town as a whole. Changes have occurred in the past for the better, in areas such as the move by former Ayr Shire Councillor, Ian Macdonald to change the Shire to “Burdekin”, which brought in all the community outside of the Ayr township. “Burdekin” has also been included in sporting competitions, such as racing, netball and cricket, where competition is played on one side of the river. But why would a name be changed when a similar organisation already exists, unless it was to be seen as a takeover bid or to cause friction? The change did upset some people on the south side of the river, including members of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce, which lodged an objection with the Ayr organisation, obviously with no positive result. Despite the move from Ayr, the Home Hill Chamber

## The finer points of Home Hill . .



FOR any of our readers who have not been to see the Ephemera entries in Lloyd Mann Gardens, now is the time to put it on the “To Do” List for the rest of this month. Our photo shows what is an outstanding entry from local resident, Lou Jezard, but this is one of many such outstanding entries. It will help you to identify the winner if you can visit the park before the Festival Street Party on Saturday night, November 11, because that is when the winner will be announced. A visit might also prompt prospective entrants to put their thoughts into action for the future.

will continue to work for the local community with the continued support of the Business community and the town as a whole.

BY the way, “Burdekin” residents should note that Cr Ian Macdonald went on to greater things in his role as a Senator for Queensland. Following his retirement after his years of service, he was awarded an AM in the Kings Birthday Honours in June for “Significant service to the people and Parliament of Australia, to Local Government and to the community of Northern Australia”. His award was presented by the State Governor in Townsville earlier in October.

IT IS good to see that our town is returning to some semblance of order in the Central Business District with the opening of a new much-needed service station. The loss of our only BP service station meant that motorists had to drive over the river for the closest refill. Now the former BP has turned into a United facility and it has brightened the southern end of the CBD enormously. The town can only hope that the proposed Liberty service station will follow the United facility into the CBD to add a new lease of life to that part of the town as well as competition—which will help drive prices down.

THERE was disappointment all round last week with a political to

and fro over the Burdekin TAFE College based in Home Hill and a so-called “Consultation Workshop” that was to “guide a 10-year infrastructure strategy” for the college.” We can remember many arguments prior to the last state election over the college and the standard of their facilities. Since that time, we have not heard of any action taken to correct those claims—which most would have expected from the government to ensure the right message went out. Now the Home Hill Chamber has heard of reports about the “consultation workshop” with the state government advising of 15 local people being invited along with Brisbane consultants. We heard that there were two engineering firms invited—and there is no problem with that because they are the types of businesses that would use TAFE to train their apprentices. However, to suggest that an invitation went out to the “Chair of the Home Hill Chamber” (which we know was not received if it was sent) tends to make other statements unbelievable. And it raises more questions—Was the “Workshop” held at the college in Home Hill and who were all the other local participants. Another question that we would love to see answered is whether the results from the Workshop will be released to the local public so that they are aware of the current situation with the college—or is there going to be another political argument ahead at the next state election due in October, 2024.

- DAVID JACKSON



# Home Hill TAFE future questioned

THE future of the Burdekin TAFE is being called into question", according to the Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, after only two local businesses and neither of the district's Chambers of Commerce were invited to attend a consultation workshop that the State Government said "will guide a 10-year infrastructure strategy".

Mr Last said the facility offered enormous potential for the district, but its potential would not be realised without broader consultation.

"The Labor government has tasked a Brisbane-based consultancy firm with identifying the community's priorities when it comes to TAFE, but the community hasn't been invited," he said. "The invite list was provided by a Minister's office and that should have alarm bells ringing in the community."

Mr Last said the Burdekin TAFE was located in Home Hill and, for many years now, the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has been calling for better utilisation of the facility for the benefit of students and the community.

"The fact that the local Chamber of Commerce wasn't invited is an absolute insult," he commented. While the meeting was on

Wednesday, it was only Monday afternoon that Mr Last received the chance to nominate some additional attendees.

"I was told that any additional invitees would have to be approved by the Minister's office, making it virtually impossible," he said.

The Member for Burdekin said the restricted invite list and short notice meant the opportunities to revitalise the facility would almost undoubtedly be missed, despite the best efforts of attendees.

"I know that the people who do attend will do their best, but you can't honestly expect such a small group of representatives to do this alone," he said. "What you need is a broad range of input from businesses, representative groups, teachers, past students and potential students."

Mr Last called on the Minister to schedule additional face-to-face consultation and to allow people and groups to nominate to attend "so that we get the best outcome".

"If the Minister refuses to do that, we know the decisions have already been made and the consultation process is nothing but a smoke screen."

While Mr Last specifically referred to the fact that the TAFE College



Dale Last

was in Home Hill and "the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has been calling for better utilisation of the facility", the Minister for Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training, Diane Farmer conceded to northern media that they had "erred" in not inviting the "Ayr" Chamber to the Forum.

On Wednesday, a Department spokesman said that up to 60 participants had been invited to attend the workshop including 15 participants from the Burdekin Area and "including the chair of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce".

However, the President of the Home Hill Chamber, David Jackson said he had not received any

contact whatsoever from the Department and no invitation to the workshop up to Thursday.

The Department spokesperson said there were no plans to close the Burdekin TAFE, which currently has 200 enrolled students.

Mr Last said that in the lead-up to the 2020 election, he "made a commitment to upgrade facilities at the Home Hill TAFE in response to feedback from people like the President of the Home Hill Chamber".

"Unfortunately, Labor did not match that commitment and there have been no assurances from the Labor government to address the concerns that were raised with me."

## Enhancing infrastructure

**The Burdekin Shire Council's commitment to strategic investment in new assets, existing asset renewals and upgrades via its Capital Works Program is enhancing infrastructure.**

Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said Council had made great progress so far with the completion of a number of projects this year, such as the Kirknie Landfill production bore, pump and header tank and emergency generators at Home Hill and Brandon sewage pump stations.. She said the new street seat, bin and planter combinations in the Home Hill CBD not only beautify the region but also support local businesses through the manufacture of the new furniture locally, while the construction of the Burdekin Be-Active Trail in Home Hill is progressing well, aligning with our vision of promoting active living within our community.

## More big race days ahead in Home Hill

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**

**TAB  
Race Days**

**Race meeting  
Saturday,  
December 9**

**Tuesday, November 28  
Thursday, December 28**



**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**

## A Time to Remember

THE Home Hill community will once again remember the end of the Great War, World War I on Saturday, November 11, 2023, as the RSL Sub-Branch hosts their annual service in front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall in Ninth Avenue.

The service, to be held in front of the honour rolls on the front of the former School of Arts building, will commence at 10.50am on November 11 – at the same time as preparations are under way on Watson's Green for the annual Home Hill Harvest Festival Street Party in the same area. The community has always provided strong support for the town's service at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, along with returned servicemen and women and that support is again expected at this year's service,

which coincides with the end of hostilities in the First World War on November 11, 1918.

The service will consist of addresses by the Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly and a Padre before a wreath-laying ceremony by the RSL and representatives of various organisations present at the ceremony.

A bugler will play the Last Post followed by a minute's silence, the sounding of Reveille and the reciting of "The Ode" to conclude the ceremony.

The Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch will again provide smoko after the service, with the Home Hill Bakery supporting the RSL Sub-Branch by providing food for the participants.

## Nominate now for Shire's top citizen

**NOMINATIONS** are being sought by the Burdekin Shire Council for the 2024 Shire Australia Day Awards.

The awards are presented on Australia Day each year to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary contributions and accomplishments of individuals and groups within the Burdekin community.

Award categories range from sporting, cultural and environmental achievements to stand-out community events, dedication to volunteering and the principal titles of Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the Australia Day Awards recognise members of the community who have made an outstanding contribution to the Burdekin and stands as a monument to pay tribute to their selfless endeavours. Cr McLaughlin encouraged the community to actively participate by nominating individuals or groups who deserve recognition for their outstanding efforts.



Citizen of the Year, 2023 Gerald Henaway

"The Burdekin is fortunate to be home to many individuals and this is an opportunity to express our gratitude for their invaluable contributions that often go unnoticed," she said. "Nominations are open to the public and forms can be found on Council's website."

Nominations for the Council's 2024 Australia Day Awards are now open and will close on Wednesday, December 6 at 5pm.

Download a nomination form at [bit.ly/AusDayBDK](https://bit.ly/AusDayBDK) or for more information, phone Council on 4783 9800.

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# Excellent standard in Ephemera display



Peace—Uli Liessmann



It's a colourful world—Maree McKeough and Lorraine Lynch



LEFT—Created by the Burdekin Art Society's "Artists of the Future" - 'Looking for Lunch'



LEFT—Uli Liessmann Titled as on the entry

ORGANISER of the 2023 Ephemera display in the Lloyd Mann Gardens in Home Hill, Uli Liessmann is brimming with delight over the standard of the entries received and the interest being shown by the public as the competition moves towards the announcement of the winner at the Harvest Festival Street Party in and around Watson's Green on Saturday night, November 11.

The annual Canefields Ephemera is now open in the Lloyd Mann Gardens for everyone to see and all those who take the time to stop and view the nine entries will be amazed by the thought and effort that has gone into producing the displays.

The entries will be open to the public up to the end of the 2023 Home Hill Harvest Festival, with the winner being announced during the Festival Street Party while the public will also be able to vote for the Public Choice winner, by submitting an entry through the Harvest Festival Facebook Page.

Mr Liessmann praised the quality of the entries that have been set up throughout the Lloyd Mann Gardens as well as the interest being shown by the public in the displays, with people regularly walking through the Gardens to view the different displays.

He also indicated that two busloads of Visual Arts students from the Burdekin Catholic High School had visited the Ephemera this week, with each bus coming at different times and the students spending around two hours each viewing the displays.

The Burdekin community have been urged to take the time in inspect the displays and add their thoughts to the public choice decision, with a \$500 prize going to the most popular display.

Three independent judges also visited the Gardens at different times to make their decision on a winner of the \$1500 prize, with Mr Liessmann pointing out that the judges were unknown to him or to each other.

The displays will be open in the Lloyd Mann Gardens through to the end of the month.



Cane is King— Scotty Apelt



ABOVE—Sandra Milani— Let's Talk Peace



RIGHT— Lou Jezard— titled "Gossips"



# Home Hill Police Beat

—With Acting Sergeant Joel Little,  
Acting/OIC, Home Hill Police Station

HELLO everyone - and welcome to the renewed Home Hill Police Beat. My intention for this article is to keep the community aware of what is happening within the town and to report on any new and emerging issues which may affect the community. For those who are not aware, our current Officer-in-Charge, Steve Wilson has commenced his retirement from the Queensland Police and we wish him all the best with his future endeavours. In the meantime, I will be assuming the role in the short term whilst a new

OIC is being appointed. Currently, the station is staffed by myself (Acting Sergeant Joel Little), Senior Constable Jason Robertson and Senior Constable Dean Wellington. I commenced at Home Hill Station in January this year, however I was previously stationed at Clare for over three years and have been in the Burdekin for several years. Prior to moving the Burdekin, I was stationed at various locations including Hughenden, Townsville, and Cunnamulla. Since starting at Home Hill, I have met a great deal of

wonderful people in the area. This really is a great community to be a part of. Home Hill Police would like to encourage everyone to be vigilant when it comes to property security. If you see someone or something that you believe might be suspicious, call Policelink on 131 444 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 to report, even if you think it might be waste of time. Every little bit of information helps us to solve crime. Reminder that if you see a crime happening or in progress to call 000 immediately. If you would like any

information or tips on security or crime prevention, visit <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/safety-and-preventing-crime> or contact Home Hill Police on 4782 1300. Police are also available to conduct security audits of your home or business. If you have any specific issues you wish for Home Hill Police to address, please get in touch and we will do our best to make it happen.

Thanks and stay safe.

**Acting Sgt Joel Little**  
Acting/OIC,  
Home Hill Police Station

## Past Bowling history discovered in Club building

HOME HILL Community Sports Club President, Trevor Elton is discovering a horde of history of the former Home Hill Bowling Club as he digs into the back rooms of the Club building that was the home of bowlers back for the best part of a century.

Mr Elton, who, with a small group of keen members of the Community Sports Club, are doing their best to resurrect the sport of bowls, including the installation of a new bowling green, which they were able to do with the help of a \$160,000 grant (plus GST) from the Queensland Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, as part of the Minor Infrastructure Program round one.

The project cost \$200,000 with the Community Sports Club making a co-contribution of \$40,000 to replace the original synthetic green that was used for other sports including soccer.

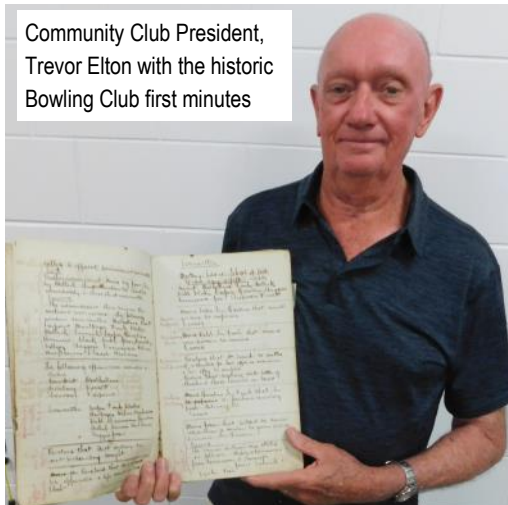
One of the first historic items Mr Elton dug out of the club's "back room" was a large ledger book that carried a small note indicating that it was the "Foundation Minutes, 1930-35".

The first page of the book revealed the names of the original people who controlled the Home Hill Bowling Club in 1930, with some prominent and well-known names recorded amongst the Committee members.

The first President was F.J. Mulholland with vice presidents recorded as Klaka, Finch and Golding. The Treasurer was Pierpoint and Secretary Perrett.

The Grounds Committee included Klaka, Cooper, Kuhl, Wilson, Quin-

Community Club President, Trevor Elton with the historic Bowling Club first minutes



lan, Ramsden, Turnbull and Tannock, while the Finance Committee comprised Finch, Graham and Jones.

The Bowling Club committee comprised Mulholland, Perrett, Pierpoint, Cooper, Finch, Klaka, Wilson, Graham, Kuhl, Ferguson, Quinlan, Mellick, Dunne, Mulherin, Ramsden, Turnbull, Golding, King, Usher, Voldark and S. McDonnell. (The hand writing in the book made it difficult to decipher some of the recorded names).

Pencil marks recording what could be initials of the recorded people have been made beside a lot of the names, but there is no way of

deciding whether that was done by the original scribe or in later times.

The following page records the minutes of a "Public meeting from 15/4/30 at the Central Theatre with 32 present".

Mr Mulholland was elected chairman of the meeting while Mr Wilmett, Townsville, addressed the meeting.

That meeting made the momentous decision – "Moved by Mrs Nosworthy and Seconded by Mr Mellick" that a bowling club be formed in Home Hill.

Other decisions made included a membership fee of Five Pounds for the first year and afterwards, two guineas per year.. The Foundation members first year was to expire one year after the green was opened. An amendment to change the later fee to three guineas was defeated but it was agreed the five pound fee was to close on April 30, 1931. Officers elected for the next year were President Mulholland, Secretary Perrett and Treasurer Pierpoint.

# Bumper crowd for Race Club Derby Day

THREE extra TAB Race Meetings have been planned for the Home Hill Race Track before the end of the year, on top of their usual meetings, as they help the Townsville Turf Club to reduce the amount of usage of their track at Cluden in the City.

After hosting their first TAB meeting in Home Hill on Thursday, August 31, the Burdekin Club Secretary, Leanne Gudge was advised that the club had been allocated further TAB Race Dates on Thursday, October 12, Tuesday, November 28 and on Thursday, December 28, due to Townsville track renovations. Those race dates are on top of already nominated race days of Derby Day on Saturday, November 4; Saturday, December 9, 2023 (in place of a Charters Towers meeting); Saturday, February 17, 2024, Saturday, April 6, 2024; and the Growers Race Day to be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

The first TAB race day has already been held on Thursday, October 12 with Mr Gudge saying they had received good reports back about the meeting. Because of the amount of usage of the



Townsville Track recently, the Home Hill Club has agreed to assist the Townsville Club to reduce that usage by hosting jump outs and track gallops locally, with a number of Townsville trainers planning to bring young horses down to Home Hill.

The next major meeting in Home Hill will be Derby Day on Saturday, November 4, with the Club already guaranteed success with the Ladies Day component having sold out in three weeks, with over 400 ladies having already paid to attend the meeting.

Mr Gudge said they were "really happy" with the support they were receiving for the meeting, with three of the six races to be "Memorial" events dedicated to former club members.

Known as the "Justin Scott Race Day", which will be sponsored by True North Interiors, the Memorial Races will remember Bill (Cody) Prizeman; Russ Reguson and Justin Scott, with the Justin Scott Memorial to be the last race on the program over 1830 metres.

Derby Day will also feature fashion awards for the Classic, Trendsetter and Men's sections. There will be six bookmakers fielding on the day and the Club is endeavouring to provide entertainment for the children in attendance at what will be a family day.

Club members held a working bee at the track at the end of October to ensure everything was in readiness for the busy period on the track, starting with Derby Day on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

## Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever

- Psalm 107, Verse 1

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## No takers for club leadership

THE Burdekin Race Club is still looking for a new President, Secretary and Treasurer to take the club forward into 2024 after only one executive position was filled at their September Annual Meeting. Club leaders, President Ricky and Secretary/Treasurer Leanne Gudge had indicated that they would be standing down from their positions at the meeting so that they can go travelling in 2024. However, there were no names put forward to fill their positions during the election of officers at the meeting, with only the position of Vice President being filled by Ron Scott. Mr and Mrs Gudge are continuing in their roles at the present time, while



Newly-elected Burdekin Race Club vice-President, Ron Scott

efforts are made to try to find replacements. Ricky Gudge has indicated that they would support the club until after the 2024 Burdekin Growers Race Day, after which they planned to move on with their caravan holidays.



# Swimathon continues fight against Leukaemia

WHILE Demi Caspanello may not have the worries of personally fighting Leukaemia, after having been cured of the disease for the past three years, she and her mother, Kavette are continuing their efforts to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation with their annual 12-hour Relay Swim held at the Home Hill Olympic Pool on Saturday, October 14.

First held in 2021, the Relay for Leukaemia is held every second year, with participating teams ensuring one of their team is in the water for the duration of the effort from 8am through to 8pm.

The family commenced their support for the Foundation after Demi was treated for Leukaemia and now, after three years in remission from stage four Hodgkin's Lymphoma, she continues with that support to raise funds to find a cure.

Six teams nominated for the 12-hour swim-a-thon this year in the hope of raising \$10,000, with Demi's team, Sink or Swim, leading the way.

Sponsors of the 12-hour relay included McCathie's Furniture Plus; Blinds 2U; W.A.& K.T. Farming; KMF Crafts; Wilmar



Deni Caspanello and Kari Ravizza swam in the Sink or Swim relay team that was sponsored by McCathies Furniture Plus and Northern Energy Electrical Solutions. The entire team comprised (Back row, left to right) Meg, Rylee, Elly, Stephanie, Heather (who was in the pool doing the team's laps when the photo was taken) and Deni and (front) Jono, Savannah, Camden, Kari and Jhett. Absent were Megan, Jai and Shelby. One hundred per cent of the profits from the Relay were donated to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Sugar; Nutrien; Burdekin Car Wash; Lions for Catering; Home Hill News & Coffee; Queens Hotel; Tamara Michielin Hair Dressing; Homewares & Styles; Liessmann & Sons; First In Physio; Guardian Pharmacy; Don West Toyota; Burdekin Snap Fitness; Ellen Marie; Brett Butler PT; Bare+Bird Distillery; The Shed NQ; Northern Energy Electrical Solutions; Complete Health Pharmacy; Burdekin Torpedoes; Burdekin Laser Electrical; Burdekin Tiles & Bathrooms; The Prawn Stop Home Hill; Home Hill Swimming Pool; Crown Hotel; the Home Hill Bakery; and Blissful Baking.



Making sure the participants in the Relay did not go hungry were (standing, from left) Lyndy McCathie, Deni and Kavette Caspanello, Kari Ravizza and Alida Favero and (sitting) Janice Jones-Davies, who baked biscuits, slices, caramel tarts etc and provided tea and coffee all day for everyone who attended.

## Final touches to new bowling green

THE final touches are being added to the Community Club's new bowling green after a \$200,000 project to replace the club's first synthetic green that had reached its use-by date.

The Club received a grant of \$160,000 (plus GST) in June, 2023 in from the Queensland Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, as part of the government's 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, as part of a 20 per cent co-contribution for the installation of the green.

While some games are being played on the new green, members of the Community Club are now adding finishing touches around the green to complete the work.

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# Kevin's service recognised

A long-term Home Hill resident, who has provided over 35 years of service to the Endeavour Foundation in the Burdekin, has been recognised by the Foundation for those years of service with the presentation of a Certificate in front of his co-workers.

Kevin Woods (61) was 21, "going on 22", when he started working for the Foundation picking vegetables at the former Endeavour Farm on Groper Creek Road, Home Hill.

However, Kevin said four years had been "lost" from his record, as his years of service was recognised from when he was 26 years of age in 1984 through to the present.

That role continued until Kevin and the rest of the workers moved into new premises in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill, where their services to the Foundation continued to recently, when they moved again, this time to new facilities in Ayr, where they are continuing with their role in packing cleaning cloths for local businesses.

Kevin's role with the Endeavour Foundation changed somewhat when he was successful in gaining his Drivers Licence (a HR Licence), which resulted in him driving trucks for the organisation, as well as tractors.

That meant delivering plants and seedlings to farmers as far away as Brisk Bay near Bowen. Kevin said that even though he had been recognised for his 35 years with the Endeavour foundation, he would continue to work with the organisation into the future.



Kevin Woods (left) of Home Hill receives his recognition certificate for 35 years of service to the Endeavour Foundation in the Burdekin from the Business Solutions Production Team Leader, David Perks.



Burdekin Local Controller, John Winn (left) with his deputies in the Burdekin, Warren Francis (Ayr) and Laurinda George (Home Hill).

# SES prepares for cyclone season

THE work of the State Emergency Service (SES) in Home Hill was highlighted at an Open Day held at the Service's headquarters in Eleventh Avenue in October, in the lead-up to "Get Ready Burdekin" preparing for the forthcoming cyclone season in the north.

Hosted by the Burdekin Shire Council, the SES Open Day provided a fun filled three-hour event for the entire community.

The event offered an opportunity for residents to engage with their local SES and prepare for potential emergencies in an enjoyable way, as it featured a variety of activities and attractions, a free sausage sizzle, face painting for children, raffle tickets offering a chance to win a generator and an opportunity to meet the local volunteer emergency service crews.

Disaster management packs also provided valuable resources and information for emergency planning. On hand to provide advice to visitors to the Open Day were Burdekin Local Controller, John Winn and Deputy Controllers, Warren Francis (Ayr) and Laurinda George (Home Hill).

At the present time, there are five SES members in Home Hill and about 20 in Ayr although the two

teams train together for two hours every Monday evening in preparation to assist a district of up to 20,000 people.

Controller John Winn said some employers in the district do a wonderful job in allowing their SES personnel to leave their work during an emergency to assist the community.

He said they needed more people to join the SES to assist in emergency situations as five would not be enough for Home Hill if something happened.

Mr Winn said the Open Day allowed them to raise awareness of the organisation. However, he said these days, people were "too busy" to join in their activities.



Assisting to get the SES message across at the Open Day were (from left) Council Client Services Manager Eileen Devescovi, Emma Trueman and Margaret Heathfield



Look out for those cane trains



wilmar



*Direct from Dale*

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

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### Parliament Update

A POSITIVE response from the Health Minister is great news for Burdekin locals campaigning for a CT Scanner at the Ayr Hospital, but we won't hear the sound of champagne corks popping . . . yet. With up to 15 patients a week being transported to Townsville for CT scans outside business hours, I joined forces with local residents and the Community Advisory Network to advocate for the equipment; a campaign that is starting to bear fruit. The Minister's response advises that a Business Case is being prepared, which is a positive step forward. However, it is another sentence in the Minister's response that provides me with the most hope. By acknowledging the importance of a CT scanner 24 hours a day, the Minister has indicated that we have proven a need for the scanner and that is always a difficult hurdle to clear. It is an acknowledgement that would not have happened without community support. We're not across the finish line and, rather than celebrating, I'll be focussing on ensuring community support is maintained. The fact that we already have staff who can operate the scanner means we have a strong business case, but it still comes down to a decision by the Minister. I've heard first-hand from patients and their families, as well as medical staff, about how important this is. I'd like to thank Minister Fentiman for accepting the advocacy of those people and the wider community in the way in which it was intended. When it comes to medical equipment and services, it's rare to get a solution quickly. We saw it with dialysis at Home Hill, so I'll keep working and keep advocating on behalf of patients, their families and our local health staff.

### Queensland Country Home Hill Harvest Festival

THE 2023 Queensland Country Home Hill Harvest Festival events have begun. The festival celebrates the rich agriculture of the region and involves many events, which started in October, with the final and biggest event, the Grand Parade (pictured in 2022) and the Street Party to be held on November 11, 2023. Events like the Harvest Festival simply don't happen without volunteers, who make a huge contribution to our community. I would like to thank them for their efforts and congratulate them for what I'm sure will be another fantastic event for the Burdekin region.



### Gambling Community Benefit Fund

THE Gambling Community Benefit Fund is now open. The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) is Queensland's largest one-off community grants program and distributes approximately \$60 million each year to not-for-profit community groups. The GCBF funding helps these groups to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities. Round 119 is a \$35,000 standard grant round and will close at midnight on November 7, 2023. If you require a letter of support for your application, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

### Here to help

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

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

## Burdekin Region Mills Weekly Production Figures

**Weeks 19, 20 and 21 —ending October 28, 2023**

Cane crushed—	This Week	Season to Date
Invicta	115,009	2,538,896
Pioneer	74,849	1,303,419
Kalamia	61,764	1,298,007
Inkerman	69,149	1,375,920
Burdekin	320,770	6,516,242
<b>CCS</b>		
Invicta	15.57	14.85
Pioneer	15.82	14.57
Kalamia	14.93	14.29
Inkerman	15.12	14.67
Burdekin	15.41	14.65

### Comments —

**Week 19**—The Burdekin mills processed just over 355,000 tonnes of cane this week. Kalamia and Pioneer mills both exceeded budget. Inkerman and Invicta mills came in under budget due to cleaning intermissions and unplanned stops. Following an estimate review, the forecast crop has been revised down by 100,000 tonnes to 8.1M tonnes. The season -to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now slightly more than 5.86M tonnes—about 72per cent of the total forecast crop. The highest CCS sample of 18.2 was from a rake of Q240-4R harvested in the Shirbourne Productivity Area.

**Week 20**—The Burdekin mills processed just over 330,000 tonnes of cane this week. While Inkerman Mill was well above budget, Invicta was below. There were extended stops due to problems at the feeding station and bagasse system chokes following a blackout later in the week. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now 6.19M tonnes, which represents more than three-quarters of the total forecast crop. The highest CCS sample of 18.3 was from a rake of Q208-2R harvested in the Shirbourne Productivity Area.

**Week 21**—The Burdekin mills processed just over 320,000 tonnes of cane this week. Pioneer Mill exceeded budget for the week. Inkerman, Kalamia and Invicta mills came in under budget due to cleaning intermissions and unplanned stops. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now 6.52M tonnes, which represents about 80 per cent of the total forecast crop. The average weekly CCS continues to climb with the dry conditions and is tracking above budget. The highest CCS sample of 18.3 was from a rake of Q208-2R harvested in the Shirbourne Productivity Area. Please remember to use your train brain and always give way to cane trains. A fully loaded cane train can take up to one kilometre to stop.



**John Tait,**  
Cane Supply Manager,  
Burdekin Region



## Uli Liessmann comments . .

THE 2023 Home Hill Harvest Festival Ephemera is on again with great new installations. Go and have a look at it in the Lloyd Mann Gardens and be part of it—and make sure you vote for the public choice on the Harvest Festival web page.

WHILE in the park, have a look at the finished “Gateway to Home Hill”. You might see yourself or a family member. It took 15 months from start to finish and the finished installation is everything I hoped for. I must thank RADF Queensland, the Burdekin Shire Council and the Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee for their contributions as this project would not have got off the ground without their help. I have also been told that two bus loads of Visual Arts students from the Burdekin Catholic High School came over to Home Hill this week to view the displays. To top it off, one of the artists has received a commission to create a large work to be displayed locally.

YOU might have seen white marking out pegs throughout Lloyd Mann Gardens. The Council is installing lights to illuminate the tree canopy. This is a great upgrade to the park, making a great visual impact to our town.



I ALSO believe Council is going to place new naming signs in the park and also in Memorial Park; while a new shelter is also planned for the skate park/basketball court as well.

I HAVE also been told that in the last census, the Burdekin Shire is said to be ageing twice as fast as the rest of Queensland. Now I don't know if this is good or bad, or is it just a wonderful place to live.

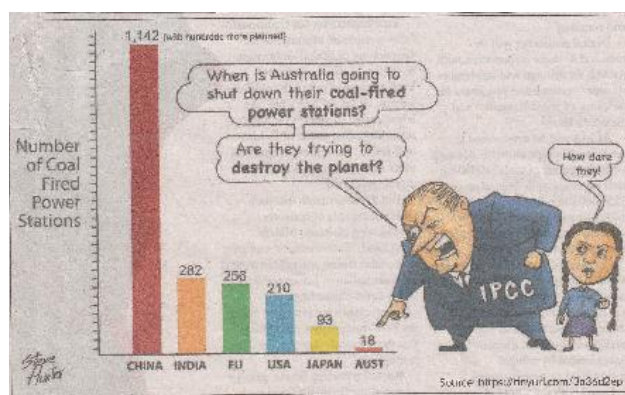
DO YOU want to hear what makes Home Hill and the Burdekin tick? Come and listen to some great speakers at the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce get-togethers held once a month at 5.30pm at the Home Hill Community Sports Club. The Chamber hosts a variety of speakers referencing the Burdekin in general and up-to-date Council news as told by councillors. You might find out what is going on behind the scenes, which could affect you directly, indirectly, or simply good up-to-date information. The public is welcome and you do not have to be a member of the Chamber—just show up.



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

I MENTIONED in my last article about the latest Home Hill tourist attraction, the very filthy Council footpaths in Eighth Avenue. I am happy to see that the cleaning of this footpath was done so quickly—there is hope for Home Hill. Congratulations to Council and the work force, which actually did the job—and I don't say this lightly. Thanks.

SEE the cartoon below. This is not a joke but please have a look and make up your own mind. Should the numbers be wrong, they would certainly be close to the mark.



BOB Katter—love him or hate him—does come up with some goodies from time to time, the latest being Australian coins and having a foreign monarch stamped on our coin currency. Well he's right. I don't know if crocodiles and rifles are the right thing either, but surely, as a country, we can come up with better ideas to showcase our heritage, anything from rock art to old sailing ships and or mining dump trucks.—Just a thought.

WHILE on the subject of money, everybody's favourite topic, another article I've come across from ([boomfinanceandconomics.substack.com/](http://boomfinanceandconomics.substack.com/)) that stated access to cash must be preserved in the Constitution. I fully agree that we cannot have and live in a society that is cashless, where the government has full control of your money, knows exactly what and where you spend it. Some day, some bureaucrat in some office will declare that you and I have too much and that the Government needs to control it, Cash could be restricted as a means of control. Cash is your money, your freedom, not created by a bank in a bank loan. On any given day electronic banking could crash due to power failure for a length of unknown time, no cash, now what? I remain suspicious of using credit and debit cards for any and all transactions, particularly for smaller, every-day items.

These are my opinions and views only. To contact me, phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or go to [www.uliliessmann.com.au](http://www.uliliessmann.com.au).

- ULI LIESSMANN

## Songs from *Around the World* at Society Christmas event

BURDEKIN residents will be able to really add to their Christmas this year as they undertake a journey *Around the World in 20 Songs* through the talents of the members of the Home Hill Choral Society. The Society's productions have been growing in popularity amongst their supporters and this one will be no exception, as patrons enjoy 20 traditional/folk songs from places around the world such as Australia, Ireland, Scotland and America - to name a few – as well as Humour - also from all over the world – at a cost of \$35 per head, which includes entertainment and supper.

Choral Society members suggest patrons should "have a good laugh, if not forget their troubles for a couple of hours in air conditioned

comfort". They will then enjoy a "Scrumptious supper" provided by the Choir members. Limited seating is available, so bookings are essential. With that in mind, the Society has added an extra afternoon performance to ensure more people are able to see the show.

For those who do not like going out at night, the Choral Society has suggested that they "do not miss out on the last performance for the year". *Around the World in 20 Songs - All Things Folk* is on at The Vault at 93 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 7.30pm; on Sunday, December 3 at 1.30pm; Friday, December 8, at 7.30pm; and on Saturday December 9, at 1.30pm.

Ensure you have your seat by phoning Erin on 0428 822 091 .

## 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.