

# HOME HILL NEWS

## Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community



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Joining in the combined effort to organise the Uniting Church Carols in the Park Program at the Rotunda in the Memorial Park are (from left) Elizabeth Foote, Judy Chapham, Judy Berryman, Narelle Castorina, Pastor Malia Mau, Chaplain John Mackay and Delphine Baker.

### Festival a winner

THE 2023 Home Hill Harvest Festival Grand Parade and Street Party have been described as "One of the Best" in the festival's 60-plus year history as a huge crowd filled Eighth Avenue from Ashworth's Rock Shop through to the Post Office.

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Personality Queen, Ally-Jo Farry (left) representing the Home Hill and Ayr Lions Club and Charity Queen, Dayna Linton, who was sponsored by the Burdekin Netball Association

### Carols for the 'Reason for the Season'

THE Burdekin Uniting Church has invited the local community to join with them in celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ at a 'Carols in the Park' to be held at the Home Hill Memorial Park (adjacent to the Burdekin Brass Band Hall in Tenth Avenue, Home Hill) from 4.30pm to 7pm on Sunday, December 17, 2023. The Carols in the Park Program will include Community Carol Singing and a Nativity Play telling the story of the first Christmas, while music will be provided by the Burdekin Brass Band and the Home Hill Choral Society.

A sausage sizzle will also be available during the afternoon of entertainment and cold drinks will also be on sale at the Burdekin Chaplain's tent. Patrons have been urged to take their own fold-up chairs, picnic rugs and nibbles as they join with the congregation of the Burdekin Uniting Church in celebrating the "Reason for the Season". The organising committee spent an afternoon at the Memorial Park recently to ensure their arrangements fitted in with the setting sun and the comfort of the attending crowd.

The **President, Executive** and **Members** of the **Home Hill Chamber of Commerce** extend **Best Wishes** to all our readers and supporters for a **Very Happy Christmas** and a **Bright and Prosperous 2024**




THE Burdekin Community Association (BCA) has added a welcome innovation into Home Hill with staff reaching out to people in the Central Business District to let them know just what services they can provide our community. The BCA has long been the provider of services such as rural health, home care, housing and community support and many others throughout the Burdekin over many decades—and Home Hill has always been a valued part of those BCA efforts back to the days when it was started and continued for several decades under the leadership of Joan Heatley, who was subsequently rewarded for her efforts with the presentation of an Order of Australia (OAM). Those services have continued, but it was good to see a staff member behind a table in Eighth Avenue recently telling people in the town of ways the BCA can help them. We have been told the table has been set up in a variety of places including the Home Hill Library and we have been reliably informed that they have been kept very busy. The BCA is one service that is providing assistance with a bus service that can be seen regularly running around the district picking up residents from their homes for medical appointments and the like and then dropping them home afterwards. With no transport system in this district, that is a service that is very welcome and it is a pity that efforts to set up a public transport system locally has not been successful in the past. There is no doubt that our youth do miss out on activities in other parts of the shire because of the lack of transport and it must also extend to other areas, such as the many Pacific Island workers who are currently in our district. We met a couple of those visitors recently

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

IT is pleasing to see that the Council is finally catching up with putting up naming signs in Home Hill parks, following the lead of the signs that were put on display in Ayr parks some time ago. Our photos show two of the signs that now grace Memorial Park and Lloyd Mann Gardens, although our original picture of the Memorial Park sign, which we took on Festival night named the area “Arch Dunn Memorial Park”, which is the name of the Rotary Park on the corner of Tenth Avenue and Tenth Street honouring a former Rotarian. The signs are colourful and certainly add to the standard that the parks are kept in by council workers. They will also improve the outlook of the parks in the same way

that the new seats and garden plots have added to the town’s Central Business District.



Two of the new signs that have been installed by the Council in parks in Home Hill.

and they were very happy to be here and willing to learn about this community. They have no shortage of transport to get to and from work—but the two men had walked across town to get their first sight of horse racing. We made sure they didn’t walk home. Maybe it needs more co-ordination to help visitors like those Islanders to integrate into our community activities more easily.

WHO is going to be the best in lighting up Home Hill for Christmas 2023? The Home Hill Chamber of Commerce will once again be presenting the annual trophies for the Home Hill Residential Christmas Decoration Award and the Neighbourhood Award, which goes to the best group of up to six illuminated houses on one side or on opposite sides of the street. Judging will take place on the weekend of December 16 and 17 so there is plenty of time to get those decorations up before the judges do their rounds. Fourteenth Avenue’s neighbouring homes have been dominating that award over many years, so it would be good to see homes in other parts of the town showing how they can compete with the recent winners.

A REMINDER to ratepayers in this district that there will be a Local Gov-

ernment election coming up in March, 2024—which means that anyone intending to put their hands up to be included on a Burdekin Shire ballot paper should be thinking about it now, because it will be soon after the Christmas School vacation period that nominations will be called for prospective candidates. It takes more than just putting hands up to nominate because candidates must then make themselves known throughout the Shire if they wish to get enough votes to be successful. Voters usually know some of the candidates and they then support people who come from where they reside. Since divisions were eradicated and “One Vote, One Value” came in, it means that smaller communities like Home Hill miss out in electoral numbers at the council table against larger towns. Hence the need to make oneself known if a candidate wishes to be successful.

A REMINDER to all of our readers that there will be no edition of *The Home Hill News* printed in January. Because of the number of people away during the December/January school holidays, we have decided once again to take a break ourselves and to start presenting the news of Home Hill once again from the beginning of February. We hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas and a positive and safe start to 2024. See you in the New Year.

- DAVID JACKSON

# Home Hill Lions celebrate 60 years of Service

MEMBERS of the Home Hill Lions Club and their guests celebrated 60 years of service to the Burdekin district on Saturday night, November 18, 2023, with 60 people in attendance at the function held at the Brandon Tavern.

Attendees included former members of the Home Hill Lions Club, along with current Lions and Lionesses from Innisfail, Cairns and Townsville, who all came together to celebrate the event. District Governor, Jo Lynes travelled from Cairns for the event, along with Mayor Lyn McLaughlin and Councillor John Furnell. Past Lions spoke about the club and its members, both past and present and a celebration cake was cut by long-time members,



Lions Club members and their guests enjoy their sixtieth anniversary dinner at the Brandon Tavern

Roy Musumeci, Bill Bojack and Sam Harris.

Traditional Lions songs were also proudly sung during the evening.

The Home Hill Lions Club was formed on November 11, 1963 with the charter members including William R. Davies (President), John K. Edwards (Secretary), Norman J. C. Ralph (Treasurer), Gelindo Piva, Abraham I. Young, James A. Pur-

don, James R. Dunn, John J. Torta, Bernard E. J. Adams, Arthur Canavan, Raymond W. Davies, Trevor J. Davies, Peter A. French, Giuseppe Gili, William A. Gustavson, Harry C. Haller, Noel Miller, George McAllister, Elio Piva, Ezzie Sciani, Rosario Sgroi, Neil Skelern and Sebastiano Vecchio. The Home Hill Lions Club

changed its name recently to the Home Hill-Ayr Lions Club because of the closure of the former Ayr Club, through the lack of members.

The club currently has 28 active members and meets at the Crown Hotel on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. New members are always welcome.

## Home Hill Police Beat



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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Home Hill Police Beat. Recently Home Hill Police parked the Mobile Police Facility in the IGA complex for two days and handed out information on home security and personal safety, crime prevention, recruiting and much more. It was great to meet and speak to so many members of the community over the two days and for the community to speak with local Home Hill Police officers. We will be getting the facility down in the future so keep an eye out! In the meantime, if you have any questions on safety or crime prevention, please come and see us at the station or call 4782 1300. Christmas is right around the corner

and with the school holidays starting, Home Hill Police would like to remind everyone to be safe on the roads during the holiday season. Police will be out in force targeting drink and drug driving, speeding and those driving whilst distracted and/or tired. Cyclone season is fast approaching and it's important to be ready for whatever this season will bring, whether it's cyclones, bushfires, flooding, or something unexpected. Now is the time to be preparing and it's important for everyone to have an emergency kit should you lose power, water, or gas supplies. A good starter emergency kit will

contain water and food for three days, a torch, first aid kit, battery operated radio with spare batteries, phone with charger and a way to store important documents as a minimum. For a full itemised list of items make sure you visit <https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/> which is a great resource to get you prepared. Also, make sure you bookmark the Burdekin Shire Council Disaster Dashboard - <https://disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au/> which contains up-to-date information. Stay safe everyone and I hope everyone enjoys their Christmas and New Year.

A/Sgt Joel Little  
A/OIC Home Hill Police Station

## Council commitment to monitoring flying foxes

THE Burdekin Shire Council has committed to effectively monitoring and managing the presence and activities of flying foxes in Home Hill's Kidby's Gully, in alignment with the Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020. After careful consideration of numerous factors, the Council has initiated specific measures to address the flying fox presence.

Residents are able to conduct low-impact activities to deter flying foxes, such as creating noise or placing visual deterrents. Those activities have proven most effective within a 40 to 50 minute timeframe before sunrise. In the event of encountering injured or sick wildlife, the community has been urged to report to authorised wildlife carers or contact RSPCA Queensland at 1300 264 625.

# Husband and wife team lead Home Hill Surgery

RESIDENTS of the Burdekin and further afield now have the services of another female medical practitioner after Dr Pavani Ganapathi recently joined her husband, Dr Sarat Tata at their surgery in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill. Dr Pavani has joined the practice after several years of dedicated study, which has resulted in her specialising in women's and children's health.

The couple were originally from India and moved to Australia in 2013, where they initially spent one year in Western Australia.

During their time in the west, they saw an advertisement for a surgery for sale in Home Hill and jumped at the opportunity to move to North Queensland.

Being from the south of India where the weather is the same, they said it felt like being back home.

"I liked the previous owner, Dr Griffiths as soon as I met him and I liked the way he ran the surgery," Dr Sarat said.

"I also liked the community here, which is why we decided to move here."

While the couple bought the practice in 2014, Dr Sarat has been working as a General Practitioner alongside four other doctors within the practice, while his wife has

been carrying on her studies.

With her addition to the team at the practice, it will allow the surgery to open up more appointment times and to take additional bookings from patients.

Dr Pavani has completed years of tireless study, during which time, she undertook a Diploma in Child Health through the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland and she also holds an Advanced Certificate in Women's Health.

In recent times, she has completed a one-year placement at the Sarina Clinic, where she gained further experience to now take on her own patients at the Home Hill Surgery.

That meant that the couple spent a considerable amount of time separated, while visiting each other on most weekends.

Dr Pavani said it was great to be back and finally able to work in the surgery together.

She said she had been in Home Hill since 2014 and she knew many of their patients well.

"I am excited to meet them all again and to see them on my own," she said.

Dr Sarat said he was grateful to now work alongside his wife after what had been a long few years.

"I'm looking forward to working with my wife to improve the ser-



Dr Pavani Ganapathi and her husband, Dr Sarat Tata with their nine-month-old daughter, Rama in their Home Hill Surgery, where the addition of Dr Pavani has added more services for patients at the Practice.

vices we provide to the community," he said.

"We won't be as busy and we can take more bookings and walk-in patients.

"This has been a long time coming we've struggled to get here – it is good for us and good for the community," Dr Sarat said.

They urged people to call in. "We would love to meet you and look after your medical ser-

vices," they said. "We are good at making you better."

The Home Hill Surgery offers a wide range of services covering men's, women's and children's health, indigenous health, skin cancer management, coastal radiology ultrasound services and Burdekin Hearing-Audiology.

The surgery is open seven days a week.

## More big race days ahead in Home Hill

Enjoy a day out under the big trees at the Home Hill Race Track at the Burdekin Race Club race days

**Club Race Meeting**  
**Saturday, December 9**

**TAB Race Day**  
**Thursday, December 28**



A large program of 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

## Families united for the launch of historical book

A BOOK produced through the co-operative effort of two second cousins, Avis-Anne Ballard and Pene Greet, who only met each other formally at a family gathering in 2017, has been the centre of attention at two launch events in the Burdekin.

Entitled *May the Cane Prosper*, the book, which records a family history spanning continents and generations, was the subject of a Vass-Backhaus Family reunion and book launch held at the home of Ian and Anne Kerr on the Vass Farm on First Street, Home Hill on Saturday, November 4.

The Vass farm was purchased by Louise Backhaus's daughter and son-in-law, Louise and George Vass in 1923 and descendants of three of their children – Carl Vass, Pauline Lewis and Dell Greet – were present for the launch.

Louise Backhaus's nephew, Hugo August Backhaus also moved to farm in Home Hill in 1918 and many of Hugo's descendants were also present for the launch.

Carl Vass, who was married to Gladys Vass, was born in the North Queensland town of South Johnstone in 1917. His mother, Louise Vass, was also born in South Johnstone in 1884, while his father, George Vass emigrated from England. Louise Vass's mother, Louise (Susanna Barbara Louise) Backhaus was born in 1858 in Germany and her husband, August Schilling, emigrated from Germany in 1889 and eventually settled in Geraldton (Innisfail).

After her husband, August, died suddenly in 1894, she married a German neighbour, Christian

Friedrich Carl Tielkemeyer and they had three daughters – Louise in 1896 (the Vass Family's grandmother), Minnie in 1897 and Frieda in 1903.

The brother of Louise (senior), Heinrich Christian Backhaus (born in 1860) arrived in Australia in 1889.

His second child, Hugo August Oscar Backhaus, came to Home Hill in 1918 with his wife, Margaret Helen Lennox and they had seven children, one of which was the mailman in Home Hill for many years, Poddy (Hugo Max Backhaus) who was born in 1915. Louise (junior) married George Vass (from England) in Innisfail in 1916.

Fred and Louise (senior) Tielkemeyer came to Home Hill in 1922 and had a farm near the Home Hill Primary School (Patane's farm).

Louise (Jnr) and George Vass came to Home Hill in 1922 and purchased the farm on First Street. Two children, Carl and Esa, were born in South Johnstone and four children, Frieda, Pauline, Dell and Noel were born in Home Hill.

Pauline married Bill Lewis and their children were Bill, John, Elizabeth and Mark.

Dell married Bill Greet and their children were Prudence, Pamela, Pene (one of the authors) and Tim.

Hugo and Maggie Backhaus arrived in 1918 and her father bought one of the first lots in the Inkerman Subdivision (previously Inkerman Pastoral Estate).

Carl Vass married Gladys Vass in 1943 and their children were George, Paul, Sam, Jenny, David (Max) and Anne.

A PASSION for family history provided the background for two second cousins to produce *May the Cane Prosper*—Avis-Anne Ballard, a Brisbane-based researcher and Pene Greet, a New Zealand-based author—as they combined their efforts after meeting at a family gathering in 2017. The duo, who share the same great-grandmother, Louise Backhaus, who ventured from Germany to Australia in 1884, had not seen each other since childhood in 1961. The book, which has Louise Backhaus as the central character, charts the family's movements throughout North Queensland. After a reunion in 2017, Avis-Anne and Pene began collaborating, sharing and collecting photos from their homes on opposite sides of the Tasman with the book written entirely by electronic correspondence. Ms Ballard said the friendships she had made with other family members she did not know before had been the greatest thing in gathering the information. Book launches have been held in the Burdekin, Atherton, Innisfail and Brisbane, while copies have been donated to the Burdekin libraries and can also be purchased through Anne Kerr in Home Hill.



Backhaus Family connections in attendance at the reunion were (from left, back) Chris Palthorpe, Steve Malone, Fred Morcom, Lisa Brett, Linda Blakoe, Kayleen Paxton, John Matthews and Anne Backhaus; (front) Frances Palthorpe, Elizabeth Malone, Helen Brett, Marge Morcom, Margaret Matthews, Mervyn Soper and Ken Backhaus.



Vass Family members who attended the reunion were (from left, back) Kathryn Sartori, Roxanne Vass, Pauline Vass, Paul Godfrey, Nikki Vass, Mark Vass, Pene and Tim Greet, Leigh Zabala, Sharon Williams, John Lewis, Trish Lewis and Bill Lewis; (middle) Paul, Vass, Ian Kerr, Sam Vass, Anne Kerr, Margaret Vass, Gloria Vass and Elizabeth Tudehope; (front) Eli Vass, Vincent Kelly-Vass, Mackenzie Sartori, Harley Vass, Xanthe Godfrey, Myles Vass, Zahlia Vass, Jake Sartori and Harrison Sartori.



Elizabeth Tudehope (left) and Anne Kerr (right) with the joint authors of the Family History, Avis-Anne Ballard and Pene Greet.

# High School students enter into RSL competition

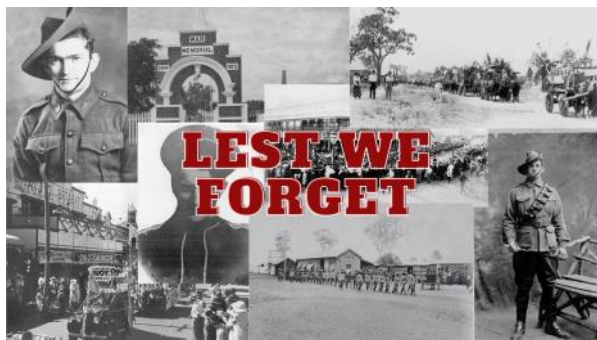
THE Home Hill High School has maintained its strong tradition of honouring Anzac Day and Remembrance Day each year with services and competitions for the students to compete in.

This year, they were asked to display how 'Home Hill High Remembers' those who have served or are currently serving our country, Australia, by creating a drawing, painting, poster, photo, collage, video, movie, power point, letter, short story, poem or song.

The High School extended their appreciation to the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL "for their generosity in donating prize vouchers for our Junior and Senior category winners". The Senior Student Category winner was Saelym Poli (Year 11) for a thoughtful collage of family members in service and local war remembrance scenes.

The Junior Student Category winner was Ashlyn Poli (Year seven) for a

touching soldier's perspective piece, showcasing empathy and insight. A Special Mention (Senior) went to Jacob Machin (Year 11) for a thought-provoking war memorial scene drawing while another Special Mention (Junior) was awarded to Cheyanne Worland (Year eight) for a poignant sunset painting honouring those who served. Another Special Mention (Junior) was awarded to Keeley-Rose Koia (Year Eight) for talented drawings honouring Australian servicemen and women.



Saelym Poli's entry was a collection of local photos of members of her family, which was selected as the senior winner of the competition

*"They gave their lives  
so you can live yours"*  
- Unknown

*"A true soldier fights  
not because he hates  
what is in front of him,  
but because he loves  
what is behind him." -*  
G. K Chesterton

## My Life as a Soldier in WWI

Written by Ashlyn Poli—7A

*This is Ashlyn's entry in the remembrance competition, which the RSL members voted as the winner of the Junior section*

My name is William Brown, and I am going to tell you my life as a soldier in World War 1. My life in WW1 wasn't easy, it included me being bored for long periods of times and brief periods of terror. The threat of death kept me on edge and living in poor situations and me getting a shortage of sleep wore away at my health and stamina. Life in the trenches was the worst of all, getting infested with rats year-round and in winter, the trenches filled with mud and ice. We were often cold, wet, hungry and exhausted. Knowing at any minute we could be attacked at any moment without knowing. The conditions in the trenches were not the best, me always getting my shoes stuck in the mud and often trying my best to walk through the trenches filled with water and me not using the bathroom most of the time, due to the toilets being overflowed all of the time. One of my friends got trench foot from standing and walking in muddy water all day which seemed very painful. One day it got really bad and he had to get his foot amputated. I was praying to God, hoping that would never happen to me. The food I eat in the trenches could've been way better, regularly seeing me eating corned beef (which was sometimes moldy), biscuits, and tinned fruit. The smell of stinking mud mingled with rotting corpses, lingering gas, open latrines, wet clothes and unwashed bodies made me want to throw up. The dread of waking up one hour before sunrise and getting ready for 'Stand-to' and prepare ourselves to attack the enemy. Some of us are then sent with our bayonet attached to their rifle and have the most atrocious job being on guard duty. Knowing at any minute one of us would be getting killed. Then the worst of all – being sent out to the field to fight against the enemy and seeing all the other men fighting for our country and trying their best to stay alive. But then looking around and seeing one by one of your mates fall to the ground, trying to keep fighting but unable to. After more than four years of brutal fighting, I had painful cuts all over my body and bruises everywhere. The feeling of elation after the war ended came to me, knowing I survived after all of that but I still saw myself alone in the crowds after the loss of all my mates. But then the joy of coming back home and getting reunited with my wife and two sons after four years made it all bearable. That was my life in World War 1.



## Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

Judge not, that you be not judged.

- Matthew 7, Verse 1

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# Huge crowds make festival a winner



The Best Trade Display in the 2023 Harvest Festival Grand Parade was the entry from Home Hill News & Coffee

Continued from Page 1—

They then made their way into the scene of the activities planned for the Street Party.

Thousands of people descended on the Central Business District of Home Hill to watch the lengthy parade, as it wound its way from Ashworth's to the Post Office and back to the Malpass Hotel, where the participants disbanded while the crowd converged on the Watson's Green base for the night filled with a variety of activities, including food stalls and entertainment. With no Water Festival in Ayr this year, some people put the in-

crease in the crowd down to the large numbers who travelled over the river from the north side to participate in the festivities.

The parade included a variety of participants including the four Festival Queen entrants, who led the procession with Personality Queen, Ally-Jo Farry (Home Hill and Ayr Lions Club) and Charity Queen,

Dayna Linton (Burdekin Netball Association), as well as other successful entrants in other Harvest Festival activities, along with a variety of sugar industry floats and varying entries from local businesses and many of the district's schools. A variety of food stalls kept the huge crowd's hunger pangs at bay, while Luke Geiger and his band entertained the crowd.



St. Colman's Convent School pupils enjoy themselves on their float



After many decades of helping to make the Burgers as part of the Home Hill Lions Club Harvest Festival team, Bill and Meryl Bojack took their turn at sitting back as "Foremen material" at this year's street party.

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## BURDEKIN UNITING CHURCH INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO CAROLS IN THE PARK

SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER 2023  
4:30PM - 7PM  
HOME HILL PARK  
10TH AVENUE, HOME HILL

*The Reason for the Season*

COMMUNITY CAROLS SINGING, A NATIVITY PLAY TELLING THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

THE BURDEKIN BRASS BAND AND THE HOME HILL CHORAL SOCIETY WILL BE PROVIDING MUSIC

SAUSAGE SIZZLE & COLD DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM THE BURDEKIN CHAPLAINS

BRING ALONG YOUR CHAIRS, PICNIC RUGS AND NIBBLES



## Ephemera Prize winners

THE Home Hill Harvest Festival Ephemera display for 2023 has again proved to be very popular with large numbers visiting Lloyd Mann Gardens to inspect the exhibits.

The winning exhibit, as selected by three independent judges, was entered by well-known Home Hill artist, Uli Liessmann, while the People's Choice prize went to Maree McKeough and Lorraine Lynch.



The judges selected Uli Liessmann's entry, "Peace" as the winner of the Ephemera



The People's Choice went to "It's a colourful world", entered by Maree McKeough and Lorraine Lynch

## End of World War I remembered

THE Home Hill community has once again stopped to remember the end of World War I, with a short service at the front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 11 drawing a small crowd of ex-service men and women, High School students and local residents.

The crowd was addressed by Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly and Padre Andrew Ballin, while many of the participants laid wreaths at the cenotaph during the ceremony.

The Last Post and Reveille were also played to conclude the short service.

With the Remembrance Day Service coinciding with the Home Hill Harvest Festival Street Party in the same area on that day, RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly recognised the fact that many of the stall holders, who were setting up for the event, had



Padre Andrew Ballin (in front of the microphone) addressed the crowd that attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Home Hill along with the President of the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL, Richard Kelly.



Home Hill High School students who laid wreaths at the Home Hill Cenotaph were (from left) Sharni Smerdon (Student Council Secretary), Saelym Poli and Jacob Machin (School Captains) and Sean Phayre-Leung (Student Council President).

also stopped their preparations to recognise the Remembrance Day ceremonies.

## Artists add colour into Festival display

THE Burdekin Art Society has once again played a colourful part in the finale to the annual Home Hill Harvest Festival as they hosted their annual Art Exhibition in the Burdekin Water offices in the centre of the Mardi Gras area.

Many of the district's artists accepted the opportunity to display their artistic talents

while the art work at the centre front of the photo (below) was donated by John and Lyn Cumming to be raffled and was won by Margaret Redweik.

A prize donated by Margaret Mary Spottiswood Bland for the People's Choice artwork was won by Luisa Delle Baite with Maria Torrisi in second place.





# Busy days of Home Hill racing

THE successful running of two meetings in the month of November on the Home Hill track by the Burdekin Race Club will continue into December as the club again hosts two meetings - on Saturday, December 9 (in place of a Charters Towers meeting) and again on Thursday, December 28 (a third TAB meeting).

The Club was hugely successful with its Derby Day festivities at the beginning of November, which drew a large crowd including over 400 patrons to the Ladies Day activities.

Club President, Ricky Gudge described the Ladies Day event as "Fantastic" with the numbers who were present for the activities.

While those present enjoyed the afternoon under the trees, fashion prizes were on offer for the Classic Lady and the Trendsetter as well as the Best Dressed man, while special prizes were also on offer for the younger generation.

The race day was sponsored by True North Interiors for what is known as the "Justin Scott Race Day" with three Memorial Races run on the day remembering Bill (Cody) Prizeman, Russ Reguson and Justin Scott. And at one stage it looked like "Ladies Day" was being extended to the track with the first four of the six-race program being won by female jockeys.

However, it was only the dual success by Adrian Layt on the last two winners that ensured some male success on the program.

Leading Mackay trainer, John Manzelmann also had a successful trip to Home Hill, with two of his horses winning the second and fourth races, with jockey Jade Dolan riding the winners of those races.

The Bill Prizeman Memorial QTIS Maiden Plate was won by one of trainer John Manzelmann's horses, Nine Carats (J. Dolan) while the Russ Reguson Memorial provided success for Joshua Manzelmann, with Adenabet (Erin Molloy) leading past the

RIGHT—Truenorth Equipment Hire Handicap winner, Whiskey Row with Jockey Jade Dolan, trainer John Manzelmann and Race Club secretary, Leanne Gudge.

BELOW—Aidenabet (Erin Molloy) wins the Russ Reguson Memorial Handicap ahead of Private Cheetah (Jeffrey Felix) with Kihi (Adrian Layt) in third place



LEFT— The Last Crusade (Raul Silvera Olivera) on the outside narrowly defeats Out of Sight (Nathan Thomas) in the Ocean Creek QTIS Maiden Plate on Tuesday with Rubicks Choice (Adrian Layt) in third place.

post.

The Justin Scott Memorial over 1830 metres was won by Medal (A. Layt) while the Country Cups Challenge Home Hill Cup over 1460 metres was won by Love on Sunday (A. Layt).

The Home Hill track continues to remain in good condition even with all the racing and training activities that have been taking place, with President Ricky Gudge saying that the sprays were "going well and are giving the track good coverage".

The Derby Day event was followed on Tuesday, November 28 with the second of three TAB meetings, which were broadcast around

the nation.

The number of races on that program was increased to eight by Racing Queensland following the cancellation of an Ingham race meeting because of the condition of their track caused by the ongoing dry weather.

Excellent nominations were received for the eight races, although several were decimated by scratchings on what was a very hot and humid day.

Home Hill trainer, Darcy Amos recorded a narrow victory with his Bay or Brown gelding, The Last Crusade (Raul Silvera Olivera) in the Ocean Creek QTIS Maiden Plate over 1000 metres.



Look out  
for those  
cane trains



wilmar



### Parliament Update

THE final sitting of Queensland Parliament for 2023 will be held in the last week of November and wraps up a busy year of Parliamentary Sittings. In the weeks following that sitting, I'm looking forward to spending some time in the electorate hearing from you about issues that are affecting our community. Please visit my Facebook page to find out where my next Listening Posts will be.

### Queensland Country Home Hill Harvest Festival 2023

CONGRATULATIONS to the Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee, for organising and delivering a fantastic program of events for this year's Queensland Country Bank Home Hill Harvest Festival. Residents saw the festival kick off with the Students Ball, followed with Town of Origin, Ironman Challenge, King and Queen of the Hill, Canfields Ephemera Exhibition, Derby Day, Pet Show, Harvest Festival Ball and finishing up with the Grand Parade and Street Party. There really was something for everyone to enjoy.

### Mobile Police Beat

THERE has been an increase in constituents contacting my office regarding criminal activity in the Burdekin. While there are steps the government must take to address crime, it is also vitally important that we engage with Police to discuss our concerns. One opportunity to do that is by requesting a visit by a Mobile Police Beat, which is basically a Police Station on wheels that provides the community with easier access to Police staff. By accompanying the Mobile Police Beat with high-visibility operations, including ATV's and Trail Bikes, this sends a clear message to offenders that the community and Police will not tolerate their behaviour. If you would like to request a deployment of the Mobile Police Beat to your area, please contact my office on 4767 0500. This will allow my staff to assist with your request and allow us to work together as a community and with Police to make our community an even better place to live. Whilst senior Police make the final decision on where and when to deploy a Mobile Police Beat, you have my assurance that I will vigorously support any requests made.

### Merry Christmas to all

THE festive season is once again on our doorstep and as this is the last edition of the year with the school year wrapping up, I'd like to offer my best wishes to each and every one of you for a safe and happy Christmas break. If you are packing up the car and heading on a family road trip, please travel safely and drive to the conditions. Of course, the festive season also coincides with the wet season weather events and even with El Nino weather pattern forecast, please take the time to ensure your property is ready for the wet season.

I WOULD like to also advise residents that the **Dale Last MP Christmas Appeal** is under way with donations of non-perishable foods and toys required for families doing in tough this Christmas. Donations can be made up until December 15, 2023 at the Burdekin Electorate Office, Shop 30 Centrepoint Arcade, Queen Street Ayr.

### 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 24 and 25 —ending November 25, 2023**

| Cane crushed— | This Week | Season to Date |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Invicta       | 130,671   | 3,076,738      |
| Pioneer       | 73,077    | 1,592,104      |
| Kalamia       | -         | 1,298,007      |
| Inkerman      | 74,778    | 1,679,719      |
| Burdekin      | 278,526   | 7,856,353      |
| <b>CCS</b>    |           |                |
| Invicta       | 15.14     | 14.95          |
| Pioneer       | 14.99     | 14.70          |
| Kalamia       | -         | -              |
| Inkerman      | 14.77     | 14.74          |
| Burdekin      | 15.00     | 14.73          |

### Comments —

**Week 24**—The Burdekin mills processed just over 329,000 tonnes of cane this week. Kalamia Mill was the first of the Burdekin mills to finish the 2023 season and the first for the Wilmar group. The last cane was crushed on Friday night. The factory processed about 1.51m tonnes of cane for the season with a provisional season CCS of 14.3 units. Invicta and Pioneer mills exceeded budget for the week. Throughput was down at Inkerman Mill due to an extended stop to replace a failed bearing on A5 mill. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now just under 7.6m tonnes, which represents about 94 per cent of the total forecast crop. The average weekly CCS dropped slightly with the dry conditions, but still remains well above budget. The highest CCS sample of 18.4 was from a rake of Q183-3R harvested in the Mulgrave Productivity Area. Although the production season is coming to an end, loco movements will continue over the next few weeks for cane bin maintenance.

**Week 25**—The Burdekin mills processed just under 280,000 tonnes of cane this week. Inkerman and Pioneer mills both exceeded budget for the week. Invicta Mill lost time due to mechanical and processing issues. The season-to-date total for the Burdekin mills is now just under 7.9M tonnes, which represents about 98% of the total forecast crop. The average weekly CCS dropped slightly with the dry conditions but is still well above budget. The highest CCS sample of 18.3 was from a rake of Q183-4R harvested in the Selkirk Productivity Area. Inkerman Mill is on track to finish the 2023 season this week. The last day of harvesting is currently expected to be Tuesday 28 November. The last day of harvesting for the Invicta Mill area is currently expected to be Wednesday 29 November, followed by Pioneer Mill on Saturday 2 December. Although the production season is coming to an end, loco movements will continue over the next few weeks. Please continue to use your train brain and approach all cane crossings with caution.

John Tait,

Cane Supply Manager,  
Burdekin Region



## Uli Liessmann comments . .

WE ARE almost finished with 2023 and I was just getting used to writing 2023 and now there is another year, 2024. This is my last page of unwanted comments, for this year anyway. Hoping you all have a Happy Christmas with your extended families. Do not drink or eat too much, because it's no good for you, especially if you can't see your feet. Most importantly, have a safe New Year and drive carefully. Merry Christmas to all our readers and thanks for your comments throughout the year.



I WILL be going to a few Christmas break-ups, among them will be the Home Hill RSL. Should you want to be part of the RSL next year, either as a member or just an associate, give me a call, I promise you, you will be more than welcome. The same goes for the Home Hill Chamber—we have had some great get-togethers at the Home Hill Community Sports Club and you will hear first-hand what is happening in Home Hill and the surrounding district. Come along and get involved, whether you are just a newcomer to the Burdekin or a long-time resident.

I HAVE seen and been to a lot of Harvest Festivals but this one was a tremendous success. The crowd was there and there were more than enough floats for a great parade. The street party had more than enough food stalls and the Lions Club members did an excellent job with their steak burgers, plus the many volunteers who gave their time and energy. You should all get a round of applause.

ANOTHER success story was this year's Ephemera, which was a major crowd pleaser. Here I must thank the Burdekin Catholic High School's teachers and students who took the time and trouble to come in two busloads to view the art works. While I am at it, I must congratulate Sam Gillespie from *Burdekin Life* on the excellent job with his reporting to promote the Ephemera/Harvest Festival. That will help to foster a bigger Ephemera and Festival next year.

NOT A good start to this week or month (November 8, 2022). Banking Interest went up again with no relief in sight, pushing some people to their financial limit—and it's not that the banks don't make enough profit as it is. Then Optus goes down and nearly half of the country comes to a standstill. That included our business, as we had no access to our eftpos machine. So, it is back to good old cash money and that always works. I have been saying for a long time when all electronic gear goes down and you have no cash money on you, you



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

will be up the creek without a paddle. Conduct more of your business with cash, for what is the good of a cashless society, just to appease Banks and the Government so that they can monitor your every move?

A MINOR water problem in Home Hill and in no time, we received numerous calls relating to this problem. The problem was no water or exceptionally low water pressure for a couple of hours. I am led to believe it was due to an electrical problem and Council had the problem fixed in quick time.



HERE we go again—the flying fox problems, which will never be fixed if the program to move them on is not an ongoing exercise. Money must be made available, but to keep the parks clear of flying foxes seems impossible. Now a colony has moved into the Home Hill Memorial Park and are roosting over the new playground next to the kindergarten and it will affect the Anzac Day Parade, as no one will be able to sit under the trees. If we wait too long and colony settles into this location. it will make it harder to move them on.



I AM pleased with the new sign for the Home Hill Memorial Park. Yes, they got it wrong twice, but to their credit, they will fix the minor problem with the wording.

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

# Light up the Home Hill community for Christmas



THE two trophies (pictured) will be presented to residents of the Home Hill community later in December after the judges appointed by the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce make their choices from the entrants in each of the two sections.

The judges will be looking for the "Home Hill Residential Christmas Decoration Award" winner (large trophy) and the "Home Hill Christmas Decorations

Award".

Everyone who lights up their premises for Christmas is eligible for the individual award, while the Neighbourhood Award goes to six houses or more in the one street, on one or both sides of the road.

Judging takes place on the weekend of December 16 and 17 so get those lights up now.

## 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; or

**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 Wednesday at 5.30pm and Thursdays 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; **THURSDAY:** Bingo 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.