

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 98, March 2024

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Recognition for Shire's outstanding achievers in Australia Day awards

DESPITE a delay brought on by the appearance of Cyclone Kirrily, the Burdekin Shire Council still attracted a good crowd to the presentation of its 2024 Australia Day Awards, which recognised the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals and groups in the community.

The presentations were to be held on Australia Day, January 26, but the effects of the cyclone in North Queensland resulted in the presentations being delayed to Monday, February 12.

The 2024 Citizen of the Year Award went to John Woods for his significant history in his volunteering efforts throughout the entire community. He was a founding member of the Home Hill Kindergarten and a member for over 30 years, as well as being involved in Rotary for more than 30 years and holding many positions, including president and secretary and being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of his service.

John has had a long association with the Burdekin Singers, of which he is currently the patron and he was president and co-ordinator of the Queensland Cancer Council Home Hill branch for many years and was involved in local fundraising including the

annual Door Knock Appeal. From 1982 to 1994, John was a Councillor on the Burdekin Shire Council and served as the first Shire Mayor for 10 years from 1994.

He also volunteered for Burdekin Meals on Wheels, the Home Hill Primary School Parents and Citizens Association, the Home Hill State High School, the Burdekin Junior Eisteddfod, St Helen's Church, the Home Hill Harvest Festival and the Home Hill Choral Society.

The 2024 Young Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Eddie Jones, a young leader and role model, who was involved in the Burdekin Shire Youth Council for six years, during which he displayed a proactive approach to staying informed about local events and actively participated in community initiatives.

Eddie also volunteered for many community organisations, including Meals on Wheels and the Lions and Rotary Clubs. His selfless actions and dedication to various causes made him a valuable asset to the community, leaving a positive and lasting impact on those around him. The Community Event of the Year went to Jeffrey Lunn and Leon McCormack 2023 Community Lights Display.

Continued on Page 5—



The Burdekin Shire 2024 Citizen of the Year, John Woods with the framed picture of the Burdekin Bridge that came with his award



Leanne Gudge who was recognised as the 2024 Volunteer of the Year for her dedicated service, particularly to the Burdekin Race Club as well as a Lifetime of Service Bronze Award

BURDEKIN Shire voters will be giving consideration in the next two weeks to who they will give their votes to for the positions of Mayor and six councillors on Saturday, May 16. We mentioned in the past two editions of *The Home Hill News* the importance of prospective candidates getting in early to advise ratepayers of their intentions to stand—and it is no surprise now that there are voters saying they do not know many of the 13 candidates who have offered their services to the Shire as councillors. That may not be the case in the Mayoral race, with the two candidates being well known as present and former councillors. However, the councillor candidates now have very little time to tell the Shire voters who they are, their background in the community and their intentions as a councillor if they are successful in gaining one of the six positions on offer. One pleasing point from the candidates is that they are representative of the wider Burdekin community—just like when there were Shire divisions and areas like Clare and Giru had representatives seated at the council table. Divisions will never come back because of one vote, one value but it is important that local voters give consideration to voting for councillors who represent a cross-section of the Shire. It will be suggested that elected councillors represent the whole shire—and that should be the case—but there is no guarantee that it will be the case when they come to vote on spreading the ratepayer dollars equally across the entire shire if something is brought forward in their own particular area of interest.

IF ANY local organisation in the Home Hill area is looking for a way to get their message across to the community, and

The finer points of Home Hill . .

THIS television picture shows how the racing world throughout Australia was seeing Home Hill over recent months as the Burdekin Race Club acted as host to a number of mid-week TAB race meetings that were broadcast over the SKY Television network. While one race meeting at Bendigo (in blue) was preparing to start, race patrons were shown horses being loaded into the starting barriers in Home Hill for the follow-up race, with Albion Park and Randwick to follow. Big crowds are not expected at the home tracks mid-week, but there would have been plenty of racing followers placing their hard-earned money on the local horses no matter how far away they were and with many of them not even knowing where Home Hill is. The Home Hill TAB race meetings also drew strong support



from owners and trainers throughout Queensland, with each of the local meetings attracting strong nominations for each of the eight-race programs. That included horses whose most recent runs had been on some of the biggest tracks in the Brisbane region. It highlights how the voluntary efforts of the Burdekin Club's members are working successfully—and they still have the benefits of the Burdekin Growers Race Day coming up on May 18.

in particular, to the many visitors who stop over in Railway Avenue and the Home Hill Comfort Stop, they should look at making use of the Notice Board that has recently been upgraded by the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce. The new notice board is now in place immediately adjacent to the main entrance to the men's toilets and is in an ideal position to be read by the many visitors who use the facilities. One local organisation has already seen the benefits of using it and there is still plenty of space for anyone else. Just a reminder though—once the relevant notice is out of date, please remove it so that there is always space available for future use.

SO MUCH for the predictions of an El Nino weather influence this year replacing the former La Nina with rain, rain and more rain consistently falling from the start of 2024. The weather must be making it extremely difficult for the many mowing contractors operating throughout the district and especially those operators working for the Burdekin Shire Council, as they try to make the community look respectable while the grass grows at a much faster rate when the watering comes

from above. The Burdekin Race Club was also affected by the rain with its February race meeting wiped out at a time when excellent support was received from owners and trainers who ensured there would have been good fields for all the races. However, cane farmers throughout the district would be happy with the heavier falls, which ensures that pumps do not have to be turned on, meaning they are not feeding Ergon Energy's bank accounts.

THE Burdekin Shire Council has continued to carry out flying fox dispersal activities throughout February in Kidbys Gully, Arch Dunn Park and other known roost sites in Home Hill—much to the annoyance of the local dog population who react to the firing of shots in the same way they object to thunder. Concerns have been expressed by the Home Hill Community Sports Club, whose facilities are beside the Arch Dunn Park and the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL, whose nearby Cenotaph will be used on Anzac Day in April. Hopefully the \$37,100 grant that has been offered will help to avoid the problems experienced in Charters Towers with bats over many years.

- DAVID JACKSON

Community interest in Shire Council elections

RESIDENTS of the Burdekin Shire will go to the polls on Saturday, March 16 to elect a new Council consisting of a Mayor and six councillors in the Queensland Local Government elections.

With nominations for candidates for the Burdekin Shire closing on February 12, two candidates had nominated for the Mayoral position, while 13 shire ratepayers had put their hand up for the six positions on the Council for the next four-year term.

Of those candidates, sitting mayor, Lyn McLaughlin has nominated again in what she has said will be her last election and she is being challenged by a former councillor and Ayr business woman, Pierina Dalle Cort, who also stood for the mayoralty in the 2020 Local Government elections. Of the current councillors, only three have renominated for another term, including Michael Detenon, Max Musumeci and John Furnell.

Candidates contesting the positions of councillor in the new council are – Amanda Hall (Clare), Michael Detenon (Giru), Scott Worlein (Ayr), Michael Fraser (Alva), Jayson O’Keefe (Brandon), Delfina (Fina) Vasta (Ayr), Llewelyn (Lew) Davies (Ayr), Max Musumeci (Home Hill), Michael

Backo (Home Hill), Mark Haynes (Ayr), John Furnell (Ayr), Warren Francis (Ayr) and Callan Oar (Ayr). All of the candidates for Mayor and Councillor were invited to attend the March social networking meeting of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, March 21 and all but three of the councillor candidates accepted the invitation. Those candidates who were unavailable because of work commitments and ill health were Fina Vasta, Mark Haynes and Scott Worlein. The meeting attracted considerable interest from the Home Hill community with the venue at the Home Hill Community Sports Club filled to capacity to hear the five-minute presentations from the two mayoral candidates and the ten candidates for councillor who were able to attend.

A draw decided who would speak

first of the two candidates for mayor, with Pierina Dalle Cort drawing the lead position. Each of the candidates spoke about their intentions should they be successful and in particular, their plans for Home Hill. All councillor candidates were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide brief information about their background and where in the Shire they come from. Their responses showed that, while there were a dominant number based in Ayr, there are candidates from Home Hill as well as other areas including Giru, Clare, Brandon and Alva. The candidates then faced questions from the audience after the presentation, with many town residents asking about drainage problems in Home Hill, particu-

larly on the western side of the railway where residents have had considerable concerns with flooding in wet weather. Voting will take place between 8am and 6pm on Saturday, March 16. Early voting will commence on Monday, March 4 and will cease on Friday, March 15.

Voting is compulsory



Mayoral candidates, Lyn McLaughlin (left) and Pierina Dalle Cort



Councillor candidates who attended the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce meeting were (from left) Callan Oar, John Furnell, Michael Backo, Max Musumeci, Jayson O’Keefe, Amanda Hall, Lew Davies, Michael Detenon, Michael Fraser and Warren Francis. Absent were Fina Vasta, Mark Haynes and Scott Worlein

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 its coming events —

Next meeting: April 6, 2024

Growers Race Day

May 18, 2024



A large program of local races during each afternoon plus southern races, the TAB in operation, as well as local bookmakers and a range of food options available



The group who were promoting the scouting movement in the Burdekin at the Australia Day ceremony comprised (from left) Chris Berkery, Aaliyah Trembath, Harper Trembath, Kailey Rowe and Narelle Timm



Scout leader, Chris Berkery highlights the Group's offer of four weeks free at the Lower Burdekin Scout Group

Free offer to 'Try Scouting'

MANY parents in the Burdekin district will remember their experiences of being a member of a Scout Group, attending regular meetings and being taught many new challenges while also achieving numerous badges and awards. Now the Lower Burdekin Scout Group, which meets on a Thursday night at their

Hall in Twelfth Avenue, Home Hill, is offering the same opportunity to the current younger generation throughout the district.

Scouting has been part of the Home Hill community since 1928 and as part of their "community involvement" activities, members of the Lower Burdekin Scout Group attended the Burdekin Shire Council Australia Day event at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Monday, February 12, 2024. Lower Burdekin Scout Leader, Chris Berkery, said the experience offered the young scouts a great night of seeing and hearing about so many inspirational people in our community. The scouts also took the opportunity to advertise the opportunity for youth

aged five to 15 years (as well as adults) to "go along for four weeks for free" to Try Scouting. Mr Berkery said that during this term, along with their Thursday night programs, their members would attend - Three Community events; Two Camps/Sleepovers; and Five Adventurous Activity days

Authorised by P. Dalle Cort.
2/19 Sydney Street, Ayr for P. Dalle Cort (Candidate).

Vinnies in Home Hill covered

THE forthcoming Local Government elections on Saturday, March 16, was not the only subject covered by speakers at the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce social meeting held at the Home Hill Community Sports Club on Wednesday, February 21.

However, the community interest in the council elections meant there was a large crowd present to also hear an address by Kaylene Rinella (pictured) on the work of Vinnies in Home Hill.

While Vinnies has a large shop premises in Ayr, they also open each Monday at the St. Colman's Catholic Church Hall situated beside the church in Tenth Street, Home Hill.



Mrs Rinella detailed the services offered through its Home Hill operations including providing household items for families relocating to the town with no possessions of their own.

Australia Day awards recognise achievers

Continued from Page 1— The 2024 Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Leanne Gudge, who had dedicated many years to the Burdekin Race Club, during which she assisted in preparations for the Burdekin Growers Race Day and secured TAB meetings for the Burdekin. She

also volunteered her time for the Burdekin Rugby League. A Gold Lifetime of Service Award went to Charlie Barbagallo for more than 40 years of volunteering while Bronze recipients included Leanne Gudge, Gary Edwards, Shirley Chard and Robin Blundell for more than 20 years of volunteering.

2024 Australia Day Award recipients

Citizen of the Year: John Woods
Young Citizen of the Year: Eddie Jones
Young Citizen of the Year Achievement Award: Emily Holmes
Young Citizen of the Year Achievement Award: Martina Bojack
Community Event of the Year: Jeffrey Lunn & Leon McCormack – 2023 Community Lights Display
Community Event of the Year Achievement Award: Millaroo Social Club – Cathrine Britt's Bush Pubs Tour 2023
Volunteer of the Year: Leanne Gudge
Lifetime of Service Gold Award: Charlie Barbagallo
Lifetime of Service Bronze Award: Leanne Gudge, Gary Edwards, Shirley Chard, Robin Blundell
Senior Cultural Award: Irene Richards
Junior Cultural Award: Emily Holmes
Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Ky Mitchell



Burdekin Shire 2024 Young Citizen of the Year, Eddie Jones



LEFT—New Australian Citizens, who received their Citizenship Certificates from Mayor Lyn McLaughlin on February 12 were (from left) Xiaoxia Li from China, Carolyn Sullivan from New Zealand, Judith Wilson from the Philippines and Mohammad Hashem from Iran.

RIGHT—Community Event of the Year Achievement Award winner, Millaroo Social Club's Cathrine Britt's Bush Pubs Tour 2023 was accepted by Stephanie Tudehope (centre) on behalf of the Club from Mayor Lyn McLaughlin (left) and Australia Day Ambassador, Karen Jacobsen



Young Citizen of the Year Achievement Award winner, Martina Bojack of Home Hill



Lifetime of Service Bronze Award winner, Gary Edwards of Home Hill



Lifetime of Service Gold Award winner, Charlie Barbagallo of Home Hill

Fun for all at the Justin Roy Kid's Bash

"THERE are not many places you can go these days where it does not cost you a fortune" – The words of a grandparent watching the large crowd of children, overseen by parents - enjoying a day of children's rides and outdoor activities at the Burdekin Race Club grounds in Home Hill where everything for the children was free. With the weather on side after several days of consistent rain, those in attendance – both children and adults - were able to enjoy an afternoon of free activities, including the food and drinks, at the event hosted by the family of the late Justin Roy Scott, who tragically lost his life in a boating accident in flood waters at Groper Creek several years ago. Children of all ages queued for their turn on the many rides and slides that were available under the shade of the almost century old fig trees at the Home Hill Race Track, helped on by a free lunch and sausage sizzle and washed down with icy cold drinks. The petting farm was also popular among the children as they were able to walk amongst the menagerie of poultry, ducks, goats and other animals that kept them amused for long periods. Colouring competitions also kept many of the children occupied during the afternoon, with the efforts of many

of them rewarded at the end of the day when the table full of prizes were handed out and the more active amongst the attendees were also well rewarded from the prize table for their efforts in many of the races they entered including the three-legged races and the sack races. Adults were also kept occupied trying their hands at rides that had long passed their experiences at an earlier age and while they paid for some of their heavier drinks, all money raised during the event went to three worthwhile charities, Volunteer Marine Rescue Burdekin, Ronald McDonald House and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The afternoon was also well supported by a long list of sponsors including Truenorth Interiors Pty Ltd; Truenorth Equipment Hire, Peto's Marine; the Caspanello Family; Amcal, Mercury Outboard Motors, Burdekin Communications/Jaycar; Vass Engineering; Next Gen; Home Hill News & Coffee; the Crown Hotel; Mark Hudson Engineering & Welding, About Town Bait and Tackle, Amusements Plus and many more. Major winners were announced at the end of the afternoon with the Volunteer Marine Rescue Burdekin

presented with a substantial donation, accepted by Chantelle Tappenden, while a raffle of a boat and motor was won by Jeff Brotto and a Brass Monkey Fridge/Freezer was taken home by the winner, Robert Trail.

RIGHT—Volunteer Marine Rescue representative, Chantelle Tappenden with major sponsor, Raymond Petersen



Justin Roy Scott's family members, Helen and Ron Scott at the presentations



Brass Monkey Fridge/Freezer winners, Levi and Robert Trail



ABOVE—Cooper Amos collected the first of many prizes to be given out

RIGHT—Pets of all shapes and sizes were available to the children who sat and played with them in the petting farm.



BELOW—Children ran from all directions to collect what they could as lollies rained down from the helicopter passing overhead.



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Makeover commences at Home Hill Comfort Stop

WORK has commenced on a makeover of the Home Hill Comfort Stop as part of the Burdekin Shire Council's commitment to enhancing the amenity and attractiveness of the popular rest area.

A total of \$105,000 has been allocated by the council to refresh the paved areas and replace the ageing picnic furniture and mosaic at the site.

Council Chief Executive Officer, Terry Brennan described the Comfort Stop as "a valuable asset for the community and visitors" and was so popular with visitors to the shire that regular refurbishments were required to keep the facility as a sought-after tourist stop.

"The refurbishment will see the installation of new concrete pavers, grinding and texture coating of the existing concrete and an update of the picnic tables and seating," Mr Brennan said. "The upgrade will also create a new water feature to replace the existing mosaic."

The works were expected to commence on Monday, February 5, 2024 and are scheduled to be completed by



Initial work being carried out on the makeover to the Home Hill Comfort Stop by the Council

March.

"The Comfort Stop is a well-known and well-used facility that provides a welcome break for locals and travellers, while it also showcases the history and culture of our region and offers a range of services and amenities," Mr Brennan said.

"The Council wishes to ensure that it continues to be a comfortable place for everyone to enjoy."

Mr Brennan said they appreciated the patience and understanding of the public while they carried out the

works.

"Council officers will do their utmost to minimise any disruptions and keep the facility open as much as safely possible during this time," he said.

Some members of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce have been commenting for some time on the length of time the water feature at the Comfort Stop has been out of action and they will be pleased to see the creation of a new water feature.

Lyn McLaughlin for Mayor

What do I want to achieve in the next four years?

The completion of a key major project

Ground has broken on the Macroalgal Bioremediation Facility, offering a cost-effective and more sustainable wastewater treatment solution, and I look forward to seeing the long-term benefits of this project not only from an environmental perspective but the reduced operation and maintenance costs.

Attracting investment

Ground has also broken on the expansion of the Ayr Industrial Estate, allowing existing businesses to grow or new businesses to enter the market for the first time. New businesses will also mean more jobs and potential growth of our population.

Prioritisation of essential services

At its core, Council delivers key services including roads, water, wastewater and rubbish – so these will remain key pillars of focus moving forward.

Growing our tourism offering

A range of new attractions for our drive market have opened recently including the Burdekin Water Park, and our Shire's signature destination event – the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival – continues to grow in attendance. I hope to continue showcasing these and ensure travellers are aware of the Burdekin's many points of difference to spend more time and money in our region.



A vote for me is a vote for the continued growth of our Shire. If you have any questions on Council matters, do not hesitate to email

Councillor.McLaughlin@burdekin.qld.gov.au

Vote 1
Saturday 16 March

Authorised by Lynette McLaughlin, 22 Lookout Road, Mount Kelly, Ayr for Lynette McLaughlin (Candidate).

Weather Gods no help with hopes for 2024

WHILE Burdekin Race Club President, Ricky Gudge has urged members to make 2024 as successful as previous years, the weather Gods have not been co-operating with the President's desires, as wet weather forced the postponement of the club's TAB race day from Friday, January 12 to Wednesday, January 17 and the club's race meeting on Saturday, February 17 had to be cancelled.

With no available dates for that race day to be transferred, Mr Gudge has contacted Racing Queensland with a request for extra races to be added to the Home Hill programs for their April and May meetings.

"We have received only positive comments from all areas on our TAB meetings," Mr Gudge told a recent meeting of the Race Club. "This can only be beneficial for our club on receiving funding."

The Race Club is also planning ahead with preparations for the Burdekin Growers Race Day on Saturday, May 18, with a clean-up after Cyclone Kirrily being "very productive", while the President looked to being able to "drop a few more annoying branches" and to clean out their top and bottom storage rooms at future working bees.

Unfortunately, the Race Club has also been hit by the crime wave that has become a state-wide problem, with the club's facilities being broken into in the past month.

Mr Gudge reported that there had

been only minimal damage and "just a few beers stolen".

However, he said they would install surveillance cameras they had purchased earlier, as soon as there was an opportunity to do so.

The Race Club is also making improvements to their buildings, with doors on the jockeys' and stewards' rooms repaired and the gyprock installation on the secretary's office, which would make life much easier for Secretary Leanne Gudge on race days.

Other work to be undertaken included windows being ordered to replace those that were broken in the race caller's room and in the TAB and secretary's areas, while a safe had been purchased for the secretary's office

Crowd control fencing has also been manufactured and despatched for arrival at the end of February, which Mr Gudge said "will not only enhance the look of the club, but more importantly, be safer for patrons, jockeys and horses". Machinery is to be arranged for use in working bees to install the new equipment.

The Race Club has also received confirmation from the Burdekin Shire Council that they has been granted a lease for an area of land near Ford Park, which will provide for a new and safer starting chute for races of about 1400 metres in length. The area of the lease is to be surveyed and club members will liaise with the council on drainage requirements.



The Burdekin Race Club and the Home Hill Rugby League Devils were near neighbours with the Devils' clubhouse adjacent to the large fig trees at the Race Club before Cyclone Aivu cut a devastating path through the Home Hill district in 1989, destroying the clubhouse. Photographed with what was originally the George Woodhead Shield are (from left) Clinton Dale, Jason Guy, John Davenport and Ashley Smith.

Once were neighbours

THE Burdekin Race Club and members of the former Home Hill Devils Rugby League Club have delved back into the past to recall their time as neighbours when the League Club was situated beside the Race Club complex.

Up until 1989, the Devils clubhouse was situated adjacent to the large fig trees that are a feature of the Race Club facilities, along with their illuminated training field, which was across in the centre of the race track.

However, when Cyclone Aivu forced its way through the district on April 4, 1989, the clubhouse was destroyed, leaving the Devils

without their home.

That neighbourly history has now been recalled as former members of the Devils club have displayed a large shield—originally called the George Woodhead Shield—as a reminder of their association for Race Club patrons.

While the Devils still make their presence felt in the annual Club of Origin games between Home Hill and Ayr as part of the Harvest Festival activities, the large shield was competed for in pre-season rugby league competition between the Burdekin clubs every second year, resulting in the Home Hill Club being successful.



VOTE 1 – AMANDA HALL - COUNCILLOR

FOR EQUAL AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION FOR ALL OF THE BURDEKIN

As a candidate for Burdekin Shire Councillor, I stand for:

- A review of Council rates and consideration in alleviating cost of living pressures.
- The prioritising and transparency of Council expenditure.
- The removal of obstructions that are stonewalling projects and development.
- The creation of sustainable, economic development and employment growth.
- The addressing of youth crime, creating and supporting initiatives to keep our town safe.
- Ensuring no area of the Shire is disadvantaged due to its location and has comparable services and facilities.

AS A PROUD COMMUNITY, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

Authorised by A Hall, 384 George Rd, Clare for Amanda Hall - Candidate

First term contract for new High School Principal

THE Home Hill High School has a new Principal to start the new year, with Deon Stripp moving up from a number of Deputy Principal positions at various Townsville High Schools to the top position at Home Hill – albeit with only a 10-week contract that will take him through to the end of the first term while former principal, Frank Kingma is on leave. Mr Stripp, who has moved from his last position as Deputy Principal of the Northern Beaches High School in Townsville - a much larger school than Home Hill - began his teaching career on the Gold Coast, where he received most of his early education. He initially gained a Bachelor of Exercise Science and started teaching Maths and Science, while taking up further studies to gain a Diploma of Secondary Education followed up by a Masters in Guidance and



Newly-appointed Home Hill High School Principal, Deon Stripp has moved from his previous position of Deputy Principal in Townsville to a first-term contract in Home Hill

ence, while taking up further studies to gain a Diploma of Secondary Education followed up by a Masters in Guidance and

Counselling. After holding the position of Deputy Principal at Northern Beaches High School, he applied for the Principal's position in Home Hill, where he said the community and staff "were so welcoming and the students were so genuine, supportive and friendly". Mr Stripp said the school's principal, Frank Kingma was on leave and he would be filling his spot for another seven weeks under his contract.

He said he was impressed with the school with its "great facilities" including its under-cover area and "massive sports facilities", while the area was very large for its current population, which currently stands at around 200. The school still offered its compliance subjects with "a bit of everything" including engineering, welding, TAFE and PCYC opportunities, hospitality, physio and work experience and the agriculture program at the School.

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)

Judge not, that you be not judged.

- Matthew 7, Verse 1

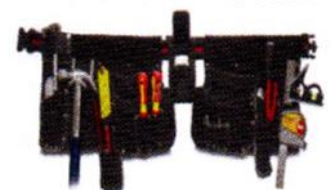


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Amazing array of talents at May Craft Spectacular

CRAFT of all types is a popular past time in the Burdekin and that will be evident on Saturday, May 4, when the Burdekin Uniting Church once again hosts its annual Burdekin Craft Spectacular at the Burdekin Memorial Hall in Home Hill from 9am to 2pm.

The Craft Spectacular will once again feature a huge array of stalls showcasing the amazing talent of many residents of the Burdekin and surrounding districts.

As well, there will be free demonstrations taking place throughout the day, a Children's Treasure Hunt (each child participating will receive a prize) and food will be available in the beautiful Dining room, with the ever popular High tea trolley tempting patrons with some very special treats.

A Cake stall will also be operating on the day.

With this amazing event being held one week before Mother's Day, prospective patrons are encouraged to "come along with your mum, mum-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law and your granddaughters to view our large range of stalls and share in a beautiful dining experience with home-made quiches, cakes and the high tea trolley delights".

The Burdekin Craft Spectacular is the perfect place to obtain your Mum's Mother's Day gift or to get a gift for a special friend or something special for yourself.

Adults and children are also encouraged to "get creative" and enter the competition to hand-make a "Mother's Day Gift (any medium) or a Mother's Day Card"

The entry fee is \$2 and all entries will be on display in the hall on the day. Entries will subsequently be judged by the public with a gold coin donation.

The \$2 entry fee will be the first vote for your entry and all money raised from the competition will go towards supporting the local Burdekin School Chaplains. Entries should be delivered to the Memorial Hall between 3pm and 7pm on Friday, May 3 and **must** be received by 8am at the latest on the day. The most popular entry will receive a prize.

The entry fee into the Craft Spectacular is \$5 per person with group bookings of **10 or more** available at a discounted price, which will include morning tea. Children under 12 are free. Group booking must be made in advance by emailing the Uniting Church for tickets at burdekincraftspectacular@gmail.com . Enquiries should be directed by email to burdekincraftspectacular@gmail.com or by phone to Judy Berryman on 0428 877 883.



Just some of the items that have been available for sale at past Burdekin Craft Fairs in Home Hill.

Parliament Update

AS WE have seen both locally and across the state, youth crime and, in particular, the violent nature to which it has evolved, has been among the top news headlines. So it comes as no surprise that the government took swift action to introduce legislation around the sale of knives and other weapons to minors in the first sitting of Parliament for 2024. As part of the debate, the LNP put forth amendments to the bill, calling for detention as a last resort to be removed from the Youth Justice act and opening the children's court to media, victims and their families. Quite frankly, it shouldn't come to a point where these youths are being given chance after chance, thumbing their noses at the law and causing trauma, serious injury or worse to another person before they are made to do time behind bars.



Dale Last (centre) with just some of the business owners and residents who voiced their frustrations about youth crime

Crime petition a chance to have your say

RECENTLY we saw more than 50 business owners and residents come together to say unanimously 'we've had enough of youth crime in our community' and I gave them my word that their frustrations would be brought to the floor of parliament. On the back of that rally, a petition has now been launched to call for more plain clothes officers at the Ayr and Home Hill Police Stations and government funded security patrols. It shouldn't be left up to residents and business owners to be conducting patrols at all hours of the evening, just to ensure cars are still in the driveway and businesses haven't been smashed—but that is exactly what is happening right now and it's not good enough. To sign the petition, visit my office or you can sign it online at <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=4024> .

Here to help

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

- Until next time, stay safe and well—

Funding for Burdekin flying fox management

A STATE Government grant of \$37,100 has been secured by the Burdekin Shire Council to develop a long-term flying-fox roost management plan for the region.

The plan will help Council and the community to manage the impacts of flying-foxes on public health, community safety and amenity, while also protecting the important ecological role of the native animals.

Council Chief Executive Officer, Terry Brennan said the grant would enable Council to engage an experienced consultant to develop the plan with input from various stakeholders.

"Council is grateful for this grant, which will allow us to address one of the most challenging environmental issues in our region," Mr Brennan said.

"Flying-foxes can cause problems for residents and businesses when they roost in urban areas, so we need a balanced and sustainable approach to manage their presence and minimise their impacts."

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science, Leanne Linard said they knew flying-foxes could present challenges when they co-exist with residents, "but these protected

native animals also have a vital ecological role in dispersing seeds and pollinating flowering plants, as well as keeping our native forests healthy."

"The successful projects in this latest round of grant funding will help to reduce the impacts of urban flying-fox roosts and support local communities to co-exist with flying-foxes," she said.

Mr Brennan said the plan would include a comprehensive analysis of the local context, the available management options, the hierarchy of controls, the decision support framework and the management strategies for different scenarios.

"It will also help us to comply with the relevant legislation and policies and to align our efforts with the best practices in the field."

The community was invited to participate in the development of the plan by providing feedback and suggestions through an online survey and a community information workshop held on February 21.

The online survey was available on the Council's website from mid-February and the community information workshop was held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on February 21.

Uli Liessmann comments . .

STARTING on a positive note, there was very little damage from Cyclone Kirrily (picture right) and the few trees that did get damaged will grow back. So, if we've got to have a cyclone, this is the cyclone that we want, with minimal damage throughout the state.



I WILL be away for most of February and will miss all or the best part of the presentations by the upcoming election candidates. Remember ratepayers, we live in a great Shire and we need the best candidates possible that this shire can produce for the best results possible, as I am sure we all want to remain living in this great shire.

TO all the candidates, the public wants you to stand up and be heard and say what you stand for and should you be elected, remember what you said, as everyone else will. As our elected representatives, it is your voice that should count and be guided by management and be run by them. This will be a hard job, but stick to your guns and the public will back you. Encompass the whole Shire and not select interest groups. Remember local drainage and kerbing and channelling that some ratepayers have waited for half a life time—such as the problems in Sixteenth Street (Home Hill) and Clayton Street (Ayr) plus a myriad of other major and minor mistakes, where one is held to account.



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

ONE item that sticks in my throat is water billing. The Council charges a two-part water tariff that includes a fixed access charge of \$510 if it passes by your property—fair enough! Then we have a two-tiered consumption charge. Tier one allows consumption from zero to 1000 kilolitres at 45 cents—way over the top—and tier two charges apply for annual water consumption over 1000 kilolitres at the absorbent price of \$1.80 per 1000 kilolitres. It seems to me that everybody needs to tighten their belt in these extraordinary times, except council, where they pick out a number for a project and get it wrong with no consequences and we, the ratepayer, still pay the cost. I'm led to believe that on average, we nearly had a 25 per cent increase each year for the last four years for potable water. Now they will argue for and quote all the new water infrastructure that has been put in place in the last few years and again, I'm led to believe that it was Queensland Government funding that paid to put this new infrastructure in place, so why such large increases in water charges?

These are my opinions and views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064

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- ULI LIESSMANN

Artisan's Boot Sale returns with a bonus



THE Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. will be opening up their business premises at 170 Arts on the Avenue (adjacent to Ashworth's Rock Shop) for an **Open Day** on Sunday, March 10 – but with a bonus, as they bring back their previously popular car **Boot Sale** – and adding a **Craft and Fabric Destash**.

The Boot Sale will commence from 8am under the trees in front of Ashworth's Rock Shop, while the Open Day will take place at the Art Space on

Sunday morning from 9.30am to 12 noon.

In association with the Boot Sale and Open Day, the Artisans are introducing an innovative Craft and Fabric Destash market.

Anyone wishing to have a site can phone Sandi Milani (0427 821 065) or Desley Jackson (0497 356 355). The cost will be \$10 per site. Some sites for the Craft and Fabric Destash Market will be with the Boot Sale, although some will also be allowed in the side area of the Art Space.

As part of the Open Day, the Artisans will also be hosting an exhibition of recycled items made by their members to showcase what can be made with used items and also showcasing clothing from previous Rags to Runway entries. Morning tea will be supplied on the morning of the Open Day at \$5 each. Prospective exhibitors who have any questions should call Desley Jackson or Sandi Milani.

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 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.