

# HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

Issue No 99, April 2024

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## Voters elect a new mayor and three new councillors

THE Burdekin Shire has a new mayor and three new councillors to join the existing three councillors, who successfully won back their seats, to look after the interests of the Shire's rate-payers for the next four-year term, following the Queensland Local Government Elections which were finalised after the completion of voting on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

In the Mayoral race, the sitting Mayor, Lyn McLaughlin failed to hold off a challenge from a former councillor, Pierina Dalle Cort in a closely-fought result, which saw Ms Dalle Cort successful with 5533 votes (52.79 per cent) ahead of Ms McLaughlin

with 4953 votes (47.73 per cent).

Ms McLaughlin was successful at the 2020 elections ahead of Ms Dalle Cort, when there was a third candidate for the position.

Three of the existing councillors, Deputy Mayor Sue Perry, Kaylee Boccalatte and John Bonanno did not re-contest their positions, leaving Crs Michael Detenon, John Furnell and Max Musumeci to face up to the challenges from 10 other candidates for the six positions.

Those three current councillors were successful in retaining their positions, with the official first preference count of votes result-

ing in the declared result of the voting (in order) being –

Amanda Hall	6776
Michael Detenon	6363
Max Musumeci	6297
John Furnell	6009
Fina Vasta	5607
Callan Oar	4993

The other candidates in order of votes were – Mark Haynes 4410, Michael Backo 4254, Michael Fraser 3809, Llew Davies 3306, Warren Francis 3220, Jayson O'Keefe 3181 and Scott Worlein 2957.

The election of the new mayor brings to an end a total of 22 years of service in Local Government to the Burdekin community by Lyn McLaughlin, both as a councillor and as mayor.



Newly elected mayor,  
Pierina Dalle Cort

After indicating prior to the election that this would be her last term, Ms McLaughlin followed her father's footsteps into Local Government after moving to the Burdekin in 1976 to work as a Primary School teacher in Home Hill.

She devoted a considerable amount of time to her role as mayor, putting in an appearance at a variety of functions throughout the district over the years she was in office.

**Continued on Page 5—**



Air Force cadets from the Catafalque Party at the Home Hill War Memorial where the Dawn Service will also be held this year

## Anzac Day a time to remember

THE Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL has plans in place for its annual Anzac Day services in the town, with only one change to the usual program of services that will take place on the morning of Thursday, April 25.

This year, the annual Dawn Service parade will take place at the War Memorial in the Home Hill Memorial Park between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, instead of in front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall, as has occurred in past years.

That service will commence at 5.25am before the commemoration services move on to the cenotaph at the Home Hill Cemetery, where the annual Cemetery Service will commence at 6am, to remember all those ex-service men and women who have passed away since their war

service.

A Gunfire Breakfast will commence at the Minor Hall of the Home Hill School of Arts at 7am for participants in the early morning services.

Participants in the annual Anzac Day Parade will assemble in Tenth Avenue from 10.45am before they march via Eighth Street, Ninth Avenue and Tenth Street back to the Cenotaph, where the service will begin at the War Memorial at about 11.20am.

Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch Secretary, Allan Petersen said the Memorial Park was "looking good for no flying foxes, thanks to the Council", following concerns expressed recently about the presence of flying foxes in the park in recent times.

ELECTORS of the Burdekin Shire have made their choice for their Council for the next four-year term and it seems the voting trend has helped meet the desires of a lot of long-term residents of the town. Looking at the end results, there is a new mayor, the three sitting councillors who put their hand up for another term being re-elected and three of the 13 candidates for councillor now to begin their new journey into Local Government. However, that trend has also resulted in the closest the Shire could have come to divisional representation without actually having divisions. A look at the addresses of the six councillors and/or their family residential history, reveals representatives of Ayr, Home Hill, Clare, Giru, Alva and Jarvisfield—now is that as close to a divisional council as could be hoped for?

THE Burdekin Shire has also been a part of a big mayoral shake-up throughout the north, with changes brought on reportedly by concerns about councils allegedly concentrating on particular parts of their shires over other parts—Does that sound familiar? From Townsville City to many of the western shires right out to Mount Isa, there has been changes in the leadership of many shires as ratepayers look for a change of direction. The payment of rates are as big a part of the cost of living as buying groceries at the supermarket and if residents are not getting value for their rates, then they are going to look for someone to take them in a different direction. The vote in four years time may determine if they have received the desired change in council decisions at the 2024 elections.

## The finer points of Home Hill . .

IT IS to be hoped our new councillors give greater consideration to improving Home Hill's Central Business District (CBD), so that it is presented in a better light to the many visitors passing through the street. At present, the focus of anyone driving through the CBD is on overgrown properties (pictured right), unsightly dilapidated buildings that could have disastrous consequences if a fire was to occur in any of them and a long-standing dead tree (also pictured) amongst the line of T-Trees that are a major feature of Eighth Avenue. In the past, it seems to have been so easy for councils to keep Queen Street, Ayr in good shape with trees trimmed and gardens immaculate, but not so in Home Hill. In fact, some of the dilapidated buildings that are currently under council control, as they are put up for sale to recover unpaid rates, have obviously been entered by vandals, who have caused more internal damage. It highlights the need to keep a close watch over absentee landlords who adopt an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality to their properties. That is



an area that a newly-elected State Government could also be looking at after the October elections—or even before—as well as the poor state of the Bruce Highway through Home Hill and the deep gutters in the town that are an ongoing problem for our more mature residents. And then there is the *Sweet Days, Hot Nights Festival* which was changed to bi-annual by the previous council— Surely the recent Grey Nomads award (inside in our pages today) must be an incentive to go back to holding the Festival annually. So much to be done to improve our town. Our hope is that the new Council takes notice and starts to look at all the things to be done.

VOTING at this election has again highlighted the need for residents putting their hands up for a seat at the council table to ensure they do it well in advance of when nominations have to be officially submitted, so that voters know who they are voting for. Expecting to gain support from all sections of the Shire by making a nomination public at the same time as a candidate registers for the ballot just does not work. It is important to let the people of the shire know at least six months in advance that someone is planning to stand for election and then they need to get out in the community and let it be known what they are standing for. Prospective candidates may be well known in their own particular areas where they live, but that does not mean residents in other areas know them. During the recent election, ratepayers were heard asking who a candidate was and where they came from. Those candidates who missed out this time should take heed of the advice and get in early to spread their name across the shire if they plan to have another go in 2028.

COULD there be something in the fact that of the 13 candidates for councillor in the elections, only one of them made themselves known through an advertisement in *The Home Hill News* prior to the election—and that one candidate went on to top the poll by a long distance. Advertising in our pages is not expensive and all funds stay in the town to go towards helping better the Home Hill community through the Chamber of Commerce. And it could be that our strong readership has helped the leading candidate to a successful result. It is food for thought for future elections for candidates who seem to believe that Home Hill is a suburb of Ayr. We have highlighted the fact in the past that political candidates in other levels of government believe that a visit to Ayr is a visit to Home Hill—which results in our town missing out in getting our message across, especially at election time. There is a state election coming up later this year and we will be taking note of which candidates consider Home Hill to be a town in its own right.

- DAVID JACKSON

# Wet weather delays Wilmar \$1m. bridge project

RECENT unfavourable wet weather conditions throughout North Queensland have caused delays to a \$1million project to replace the existing Haywards Bridge over Kidby's Gully (pictured) with new concrete culverts to improve structural longevity of the bridge.

Wilmar Cane Supply and Transport Project Engineer Senior, Cameron Pirrone said the project works had been delayed due to recent unfavourable wet weather and it would commence as soon as the ground conditions allowed.

He said the concrete culverts were a low maintenance and cost-effective solution long-term and would better suit the height, width and natural environment of Kidby's Gully.

"The project is scheduled to finish before the start of the 2024 season in June and external civil contractors had been engaged to complete it," Mr Pirrone said. Wilmar's Cane Supply and Transport unit facilitates 1600km of rail line across its four milling regions, including sidings and locomotive yards.

The Burdekin region has close to 630km of that rail line and about 285,000 tonnes of cane goes over Haywards Bridge to Inkerman Mill each year.

"We complete regular inspections on our rail infrastructure to ensure it meets the required safety and reliability standards," Mr Pirrone said.

"Haywards bridge replacement is part of Wilmar Sugar and Renewables' new \$3M per annum rail-bridge program to replace or remediate bridges across our rail network."



Looking down the track across the new \$1 Million Haywards bridge being constructed over Kidby's Gully in the Down River section of Home Hill



Some of the culverts being used in the construction the new bridge over Kidby's Gully

## 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 race day plus southern races, the TAB in operation, as well as local bookmakers and a range of food options available

# Continuing Chamber support for Bowen Pipeline Project



The proposed Bowen Pipeline Project (red line) winds its way through what is assessed to be good quality agricultural land (GQAL) between Home Hill and Bowen

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has continued to strongly support the proposed Burdekin to Bowen Water Pipeline, with both the Chamber and *The Home Hill News* submitting letters of support.

Those letters were among the Bowen Pipeline Company's 50-plus written and verbal letters of support (predominantly from the local Community) submitted recently as part of its Draft Business Case to the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

With the Queensland State election less than seven months away, the Bowen Pipeline Company has been urging continued support for the project so that elected representatives and candidates recognise that community support.

The company has submitted the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation application for endorsement with the Department of State

Development and Infrastructure; and Detailed Business Case with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, with Class two engineering design and costing completed. Company director, Sean Brown said these were very important Project milestones, as it meant the approval of the Project was now in the hands of the Ministers of the Queensland Government - the most important one being the Treasurer.

He said they continued to have strong support from State Government Ministers, Glenn Butcher (Water) and Mark Fumer (Agriculture) as well as the State Opposition, particularly Dale Last.

Mr Brown said their project team was expanding with the addition to the Company of new Directors, Helen Stehbens and Warren Phillips (electrical engineer, Hancock, TMR, QR etc)

and to the Steering Committee with Carl Walker (BGGGA) and Nerida Airs (water specialist).

"As the project moves beyond the approvals stage and into pre-construction/construction, we expect to increase the project team further," he said.

Mr Brown said the company particularly valued the commentary of local stakeholders including growers (including prospective growers) who have noted the need for increased reliable, quality water now, not in the future when hydrogen businesses may come on stream.

He said it was not feasible to wait an additional four years for hydrogen companies to reach FID and beyond to build a pipeline.

"We do note that HyNQ has advised of a possible FID by early 2026 with others potentially to follow.

"For each year that the pipelined water is not available to the agricultur-

horticultural sectors, approximately \$300 million is foregone in terms of productivity/outputs"

Other local stakeholders who have provided support include -

- First Nations Peoples such as the Bindal, who represent the location on which the pump station from the Burdekin River will be situated;
- Transport, logistics and manufacturing entities along with local chambers of commerce, who identify flow-on benefits for the region, and in some cases, the nation – as coNEXA notes, the project "is more than an infrastructure venture, it is a catalyst for economic growth, community development and environmental sustainability";
- Experienced locals who see the merits of innovative technologies developed in Australia being used more in Australia rather than "old earth channels that require maintenance..."

## LOWER BURDEKIN SCOUT GROUP



Some of the Lower Burdekin Scouts who participated in Clean Up Australia Day activities included (from left) Scout Leader Chris Berkery with Aaliyah Trembath, Kailey Rowe, Corey Bartlett and Harper Trembath

# Scouts in Home Hill clean-up

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce has congratulated and thanked the members of the Lower Burdekin Scout Group, who played a significant part in cleaning up a major part of Home Hill on Clean Up Australia Day on March 3, 2024, with the end result being a large amount of rubbish removed from the town area.

Chamber President, David Jackson said the members of the Scout Group had played a big part in improving the overall outlook of the town in the eyes of locals and visitors alike.

"I would hope that everyone plays their part now in helping to keep the town clean by placing their rubbish in the correct receptacles," he commented.

The Scouts team, consisting of two leaders and one adult helper, along with three Joeys, two Cubs and one Scout turned out on what was a very warm day for a job well done.

Their results from their six kilometre walk around Home Hill included nine plastic bottles, four glass beer bottles, 20 cigarette butts, 15 plastic bottle tops, seven plastic straws, one paper straw, 90 lolly wrappers, six newspaper inserts, one plastic ice cream cup, two plastic clothes pegs, one bike reflector, one wooden icy pole stick, one plastic takeaway food container, 10 aluminium drink cans, two pieces of car tyre tread, two pieces of iron bracket, one steel bolt, one biro/pen, 30 pieces of plastic, three pieces of glass, 70 pieces of paper, three small cardboard boxes, one pair of school shorts, one roll of masking tape, one popper box and three socks.

The Scouts and their leaders finished the day with a barbecue and a swim at the town pool.

# Voters decide changes to Council

## From Page 1—

With the declaration of the result of the polls, Lyn McLaughlin now hands over to her successor, Ayr business woman, Pierina Dalle Cort for her first term as Mayor, following on to her 12 years previously as a councillor.

She said her election represents "change for the Burdekin" as she hopes to address issues of population and rates and encourage more investment and business in the community.

"My message throughout the campaign has been 'let's do something about it'."

She said communication was the key word in working with the new team of councillors and Council staff.

"We need to work together to go through some of the problems that have been facing our community for some time and what's been holding up our process."

Ms Dalle Cort thanked the voters of the Shire for their belief and desire for



Former mayor Lyn McLaughlin

change, as well as her friends, work colleagues and family.

The first meeting of the new council was to be held on Wednesday, April 3.

# Burdekin Craft Spectacular

at the Burdekin Memorial Hall, Home Hill

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

from 9am to 2pm

Hosted by the Burdekin Uniting Church

**Entry Fee ONLY \$5**

Amazing high quality crafts available at 40 different stalls

Dining room and High Tea available all day



# Crafts display to feature northern talents

ONE of the biggest displays of Crafts of all shapes and sizes will take place in Home Hill on Saturday, May 4, when the Burdekin Uniting Church once again hosts its annual Burdekin Craft Spectacular at the Burdekin Memorial Hall.

The popular annual display of arts and crafts, which highlights the artistic talents of crafts men and women from throughout North Queensland, will once again fill the Memorial Hall from 9am to 2pm on May 4.

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

Tastes will also be tempted through the cake stall, which will also be operating on the day.

With the Burdekin Craft Spectacular being held a week ahead of Mothers Day this year, it could also be the perfect place to obtain your Mum's Mother's Day gift or to get a gift for a special friend or even something special for yourself.

Prospective patrons are being encouraged to "come along with your mum, mum-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law and granddaughters to view the large range of stalls and share in the beautiful dining experience with home-made quiches, cakes and the high tea trolley delights". 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 for the competition is \$2 and all entries will be on display in the hall on the day.



Part of the large crowd inspecting the array of stalls in the Memorial Hall at a previous Craft Spectacular

The 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 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 burdekin-craftspectacular@gmail.com .

Any enquiries about the Craft Spectacular should be directed by email to burdekin-craftspectacular@gmail.com or by phone to Judy Berryman on 0428 877 883.

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# The changing face of Home Hill's main street



DECEMBER, 2022, when it was announced that the Home Hill Co-Operative Traders Limited complex, which had served the town from back to the 1930's, was to be demolished to make way for a new service station



FEBRUARY, 2024 as the Home Hill Co-Operative Traders complex is reduced to almost nothing as the building was demolished



APRIL, 2024, as a start is made on the new Service Station at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Sixth Street, with the sinking of new petroleum tanks and site works for the new buildings

## Six-event program for April Race Meeting

RACING will return to the Burdekin Race Club on Saturday, April 6, with a six-event program as a lead-up to the Club's biggest day of the year, the Burdekin Growers Race Day to be held on Saturday, May 18.

The racing program will commence with the 1000 metres Open Plate with set weights followed by a Benchmark 55 Handicap over 1460 metres. Race three will be a Benchmark 50 Handicap over 1000 metres followed by a Benchmark 45 Handicap over 1180 metres.

With prize money totalling \$10,000 on offer for the first four races, owners and trainers will benefit from QTIS Bonuses being applicable to each of the final two races – the 1000 metres Maiden Plate for Race Five for two year olds and up and set weights and Race Six, the 1189 metres Class Three Plate with set weights. The April program will be an ideal lead-up to the Burdekin Growers Race Day, with the Club's planning well advanced for what is expected to be a huge crowd on course for the day of fashions and racing.

# Buy or sell at the Burdekin Artisans Car Boot Sale

THE Markets are back in Home Hill again at the beginning of April, as the Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. continues the Car Boot Sales they re-commenced at the beginning of March this year.

The Association have hosted the Car Boot Sales in previous years, but had stopped them in the summer months when the heat tends to prevent customers from attending.

However, as the weather cools off, the Association has recommenced the sales with good support from local sellers offering a range of products under the trees in front of Ashworths Rock Shop in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill.

And as with the first sales in March, the Artisans will be adding their newly introduced Craft and Fabric Destash, which was held for the first time last month.

The Car Boot Sale will commence from 8am on Saturday (not Sunday as was the case in March) under the trees in front of Ashworth.

As well, they will be opening up their business premises at 170 Arts on the Avenue from 9.30am on Saturday, April 6 to host the Craft and Fabric Destash in conjunction with the Car Boot Sale.

Anyone wishing to have a site should phone Sandi Milani (0427 821 065) or Desley Jackson on (0497 356 355). Each site costs \$10.

Some sites for the Craft and Fab-



Just some of the products offered at the Artisans Car Boot Sale

ric Destach could be with the Car Boot Sale, although they could also be allowed to be in the side area inside the Art Space.

Any queries should also be directed to Sandi Milani or Desley

Jackson.

The Artisans are devoting a lot of effort towards developing regular markets in Home Hill and all it needs is strong support from sellers and buyers.



There has been a large array of plants to select from at the markets

## Seamstress' talents on the Runway

ONE of the most unique forms of entertainment held each year in Home Hill will take place at the end of April when local seamstresses display their talented ideas at the Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. Rags to Runway competition

The event displays the changes that can be made to second hand clothing to create cat-walk fashions that will stand out in any major event.

The ability to sew seems to be a dying talent but the competitors in Rags to Runway display a range of intriguing ideas as they revamp new or second-hand clothing items into a runway-worthy outfit.

Members of the public have been encouraged to submit entries in the competition this year. Items must be purchased from either second-hand organisations or from local dress salons' throw-out racks or even from their own closets to redesign for the competition.

The finished products will take



pride of place at the Burdekin Rags to Runway 2024 at St. Stephen's Hellenic Greek Hall in Eighth Avenue, Home Hill on Saturday night, April 27.

Seating will be from 7pm for a 7.30pm sharp start.

Tickets are \$35 per person and are available from 170 Arts on the Avenue or on the Burdekin Artisans Facebook.

For anyone who looks at an item of clothing and thinks "an insert of a piece

of lace or a panel of different fabric or a tuck here or there, would make all the difference", here is the opportunity to have a go at redesigning someone else's castoffs or something from their closet into a new runway-worthy outfit.

The Burdekin Artisans have received strong support from sponsors, North Queensland Green Solutions, Wilmar, PSK Private Wealth, Bendigo Bank and Ergon Energy.

### Burdekin Rags to Runway 2024

**St. Stephen's Hellenic Greek Hall**  
Cnr. Eighth Avenue and First Street, Home Hill  
**Saturday, April 27, 2024**  
Seating by 7pm for Start at 7.30 pm sharp

Tickets @ **\$35.00**  
available from:  
**170 Arts on the Avenue**  
170 Eighth Avenue,  
Home Hill Qld 4806

**Facebook:**  
Burdekin  
Artisans





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funds raised staying in the district*










# Twenty years of Canefield Ashes Cricket Carnivals

THE Home Hill Cricket Club's annual Canefield Ashes T20 Cricket Carnival has reached an important milestone in 2024, as it celebrates 20 years of honouring the memory of past member, Eugene Pagotto.

The Carnival, which will be held over two days – April 13 and 14—on the fields of the Home Hill Cricket Club and on surrounding grounds, as the club hosts a total of 40 teams from as far away as Proserpine and Townsville and out to Charters Towers in four different grades.

The Ashes Carnival suits the social cricketer as well as the competitive participant and everyone in between.

The carnival program on Saturday night features a 'Pig on the Spit' and live music at the Cricket clubhouse, with everyone being welcome to go along and enjoy the night.

Over the years of its existence, the Canefield Ashes competition has quickly developed into a great weekend of cricket, mateship and socialising, while raising much-needed funds for the Cancer



Action in a social division game at a previous Canefield Ashes Carnival at the Home Hill Cricket Club's grounds in Home Hill

Council Queensland.

Cricket enthusiasts from throughout North Queensland or anyone simply looking for a great time has been urged to mark the date on their calendar for the 2024 Canefield Ashes Carnival . The Carnival will be centred on the Home Hill Cricket Club grounds situated in the centre of the Burdekin Race Club's track with entry off First Street, Home Hill.

## Grey Nomads award for Burdekin Festival

THE 2023 Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival has been awarded second prize for the Best Festival or Event in the 2023 Grey Nomad Awards.

The Burdekin Shire



*Nights Festival* attracted over 4000 attendees during the weekend with 70 per cent of attendees from the Burdekin region, while the remaining 30 per cent visited from out of town.

Council announced the success for the festival, which showcases the Burdekin region's people, produce and culture, while also celebrating the Burdekin as the Sugar Cane Capital of Australia. Its uniqueness draws in a diverse crowd, from those who wish to immerse themselves in cultural performances, to spectators keen to witness a cane field set alight for the First Fire, along with spectators and participants who are all passionate about keeping the sugar cane heritage alive at the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships (pictured).

The 2023 *Sweet Days Hot*

Those impressive numbers continued to highlight the festival as being one of the Burdekin's key destination events.

The Council offered its thanks to all the sponsors, partners, volunteers and attendees who made the festival a success "and helped put Burdekin on the map as a must-stop destination for grey nomads". The *Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival* is set to grow even more in 2025 when it is planned to return on Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31, attracting more out-of-region visitors, offering an exciting entertainment program and fostering greater community engagement.

## Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



Whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father, who is in Heaven.

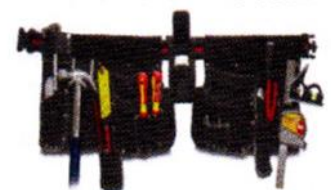
*Matthew 10, Verse 33*

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# New executive team for 2024 Youth Council

The Burdekin Shire Youth has an eventful year ahead, following the recent election of the 2024 executive team. That team comprised the Youth Mayor, Eddie Jones who took office at a recent meeting alongside Laney Lando as his Deputy and Matilda Wiseman as Secretary.

The new executive, along with a dedicated team of 20 young individuals from various Burdekin High Schools as well as working youth, were eager to get involved in the community and have their voices heard.

Eddie Jones brought six years of experience as a mem-



The Burdekin Youth Council's new executive team of Youth Mayor Eddie Jones with Laney Lando as Deputy Mayor and Matilda Wiseman as Secretary

ber of the Burdekin Shire Youth Council to the meeting, having been an integral part of the Youth Council's monthly meetings and numerous community initiatives. He was recently awarded the 2024 Young Citizen of the Year Award at the Australia Day ceremony held earlier in the year, while he has actively participated in community events and initiatives and has been a great role model for youth within the community.

Deputy Mayor Laney Lando, a Year 12 student at Burdekin Christian College, is known for her passion for theatre, frequenting markets and playing touch football. Her love for the community shines through her work as she now enters her second year with the Youth Council.

Matilda Wiseman, also in Year 12 at Burdekin Christian College, enjoys reading and pottery.

Having lived in various Australian states and towns, she has called the Burdekin home for nearly two years, during which her active participation has extended beyond the Youth Council to volunteering with Lions Clubs across Australia and engaging in Park Run events.

The Youth Council play a pivotal role in providing a voice for young people from all high schools and townships in the Burdekin and often guides Council's decision-making around matters related to youth.

The Youth Council meets monthly and welcomes feedback and suggestions from all young people in the area. New members are always welcome.

## Parliament Update

IT IS safe to say that no matter where you live right now, everyone is feeling the pressures of increased costs of living, especially in rural and regional Queensland.

In the second sitting of Parliament, the LNP brought the matter to the fore and with it, I took the chance to highlight the pressures our community is facing. In the space of 18 months, our growers have seen power prices soar 52 per cent, grocery prices have skyrocketed while our horticulture farmers have struggled to make ends meet. We have also seen insurance premiums rise to unprecedented levels pricing some residents and business owners out of the market, whilst transport companies face double digit increases in the cost of fuel. These pressures are real and in rural and regional areas like ours, these impacts are significantly magnified.

## Petition draws thousands

MORE than 3000 signatures were counted on the final days of a petition for bolstered police numbers and fully funded security patrols in Ayr and Home Hill, when it concluded this month. The petition will now be tabled along with a response from the Minister and I can assure you that, as the Member for Burdekin, anything less than what's been asked for by this community won't be accepted by me. Time and time again, this community has proven it is willing to be proactive in its approach to improve community safety, so it is only fair that this state Labor government demonstrates that it is just as committed to the safety of the Burdekin community.

## Watering a secure future for the Burdekin

IT WAS great to have the Shadow Min-



The Shadow Minister for Water and Construction of Dams and for Regional Development and Manufacturing, Deb Frecklington (front left) and Member for Burdekin, Dale Last (back, right) met with QCAR representatives, Dean Sgroi, Peter Hall and Melissa Boulter (bottom right).

ister for Water and Construction of Dams and Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing, Deb Frecklington visit the electorate recently. Deb was able to hear first-hand from stakeholders, both in the water industry as well as how the Burdekin is punching above its weight in the world of manufacturing. As we know, our farmers rely heavily on irrigation in the Burdekin, so ensuring infrastructure meets the demands it faces and that our growers are getting a fair go when it comes to water pricing has wide reaching impacts.

## 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**

## Uli Liessmann comments . .

THE Election is over and here we are with a partially new council. Councillors, remember what you said prior to the election—now is the time to stand by your words with the accommodating deeds. Also, I would ask you to have a look and read some of *The Home Hill News* and don't sprout that you don't read it, as some previous councillors did, even though they still knew what was printed. Stay connected with all the outlying areas of the Shire and yes, I know that is a big ask. In your workings/workshop meetings and later in the budget workshops, try to include what is beneficial to the majority and not just special groups.

AS I was just writing this newsletter,, our new Mayor walked into our shop and with congratulations all around—a new broom sweeps clean. Just want to mention, this was the first new Mayor ever to walk into this shop, or in that fact, any new councillors, so let see how all this turns out.



THE old Council had started the upgrade come improvement to the Home Hill Comfort Stop and for that, I thank them. But I hope they will replace the sign (pictured left) facing Railway Avenue. I don't know who owns the book exchange box, but it needs a bit of a spruce up and new books. It is not much good just hanging it on the wall and open to all weather if it is not going to be looked after.

WORK is in progress on the new servo across from the Post Office (pictured). I think it will be some time before we see such a big crane



in this town again. It is great to see the vision from outsiders who are investing in Home Hill.

I JUST came back from a great holiday, had a lot of great food and saw a lot of new sights, and if you include Covid in your trip, which I had, you can call it an enjoyable time. But no matter how good the holiday was, it is always good to come back home and there is no place like Home Hill in Australia and that is what I think. I stopped at a place called Lyttleton, which seems to have the same problems as Home Hill and thousands of other small towns across the world with



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

empty shops and vacant blocks. But this picturesque and scenic town is well known for its lively Saturday markets in the main street. The markets bring together many locals and visitors and the many small coffee shops which do an excellent breakfast menu. These cafés are located among other specialty shops throughout the main street sharing the space within the old shops or houses comprising of one room dress shops, book shops and gift shops among other small businesses. Just maybe the rent is a bit more reasonable than here.

ON A good note, I hear that the Burdekin Lions Club is a real goer at the present time, with quite a few new members from throughout the shire. Also, other organisations such as the RSL Sub-Branch in Home Hill, the Home Hill Chamber has also had an increase in members and by all accounts, the Bowling Club led by Trevor and Judy Elton is going great guns. With new members, maybe someone new will put up their hand, fill some executive positions and give the old guard a rest. By all accounts, Home Hill is doing great and I live here. Must also congratulate the Bendigo Bank for their community grants funding, as it surely will help a lot of community organisations—that is if you filled out the application form and are lucky enough to meet their criteria. The best of luck to all of you who have tried.

NOW do not forget 25<sup>th</sup> April (this month) for the ANZAC Day parade—a most important day. There will be an increase in ADF personnel marching this year, as well as three army vehicles in the parade. You are all invited to take part in this special day. Remember, the dawn parade will be held in Memorial Park.

IF YOU have not seen the new night time light show in Lloyd Mann, take the time and have a look. This is as good a light show (pictured right) as you would see anywhere in country Australia. It is a real asset to Home Hill and will add to the overall aesthetics of the Ephemera at the end of the year. Well done!



THESE are my opinions and views only.

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

- ULI LIESSMANN

# Fun-filled Burdekin school holiday break ahead

WITH Easter over for another year, the Burdekin Library is gearing up for a festive and fun-filled school holiday break as they encourage young school children to embark on a journey of learning and exploration with the Library's School Holiday Program. Packed with workshops, gaming sessions and creative activities,

the program is described as "the perfect opportunity for kids to unleash their imagination with plenty to keep young minds entertained". As the weather starts to cool down, it is also the ideal time to explore the picturesque nature trails scattered throughout the Burdekin - whether you prefer a leisurely stroll or a challenging hike, you will be

treated to breathtaking views and abundant wildlife. With our pristine beaches and waterways, the Burdekin offers endless opportunities for water-based fun. Whether you are into swimming, fishing, or kayaking, you will find plenty of ways to explore and enjoy the great outdoors.

Don't let the school holidays pass you by without experiencing all that Burdekin has to offer, there's no shortage of excitement during this school holidays break. Information on what to see and do in the Burdekin is available at [visitburdekin.com.au](http://visitburdekin.com.au) or by finding the Burdekin Libraries School Holiday Program on Burdekin Library facebook page.

## 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](mailto:homehilltennis@gmail.com), Facebook: Home Hill Tennis or to book a court go to [play.tennis.com.au/homehilltennis](http://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.