



Youth helps with Anzac Day growth

ANZAC Day commemorations continue to grow in Home Hill as the 2024 ceremonies again attracted large crowds, particularly from the youth of the district, who will be the future of the commemorations in the years to come.

From the Dawn Service through to the main parade and commemoration ceremony at the Cenotaph in the Home Hill Memorial Park, crowds of residents from throughout the district turned out to recognise the thousands of ex-servicemen and women who gave their lives in various conflicts throughout the world to ensure we live in the free and democratic society that we have today. The Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL made one significant change to their 2024 services, as they moved the Dawn Service from its long-time position at the front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall and School of Arts to the Cenotaph in the Home Hill Memorial Park.

And despite some concerns amongst Home Hill RSL members, the move proved to be successful, as a larger crowd surrounded the Cenotaph, many more wreaths were laid, they did not have to close off Ninth Avenue to prevent motor vehicles passing through the crowd during the service in Ninth Avenue and fears of problems with bats in the nearby trees did not come to fruition.

The youth of the district were

also prominent throughout the service, with High School Captain, Jacob Machin joining the list of speakers to address the crowd and many of the Burdekin High Schools being represented in the wreath laying. Speakers at the Dawn Service, who all highlighted the importance of the commemoration, also included the President of the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL, Richard Kelly, Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort, Padre Andrew Baildon and Wing Commander Paul Howard from the RAAF Base in Townsville, who delivered the Address of Loyalty.

Immediately following the Dawn Service, some of the crowd moved on to the Home Hill Cemetery where they remembered those ex-servicemen and women who had since passed on and were buried in the cemetery. President Richard Kelly led the short service by reading out the names of all those who had served their country and who had since been interred at the cemetery.

Padre Baildon also delivered another address before a wreath laying ceremony and those present were given the opportunity to place a Poppy at the Cenotaph in memory of family or friends who were buried in the cemetery. The Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL also recognised many of those who were participating in the various ceremonies by hosting a "Gunfire Breakfast" at the Memorial Hall.

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Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch President, Richard Kelly (back) with the Saluting Officer for the Home Hill Anzac Day services, Wing Commander Paul Howard (left) of the RAAF Base, Townsville and Sub-Branch secretary, Alan Petersen.



While a Burdekin Air Force Cadet holds his position in the Catafalque Party at the Home Hill Cenotaph, two Osborne School students joined many other local students participating in the wreath laying ceremony

IT IS time to celebrate—*The Home Hill News* has hit the 100 mark in issues published. We started the publication in 2015 in the same way that Tom Jackson started *The Home Hill Observer* in 1923—and under the name of the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce, to give the Home Hill community some news about what was happening around the town at a time when we were being ignored by other media organisations. We are still being ignored by some other media, but not as much as we were at that original time. We started with two pages and over time have increased it to an average of 12 pages—and even 14 on one occasion when we just had too much news for 12 pages. After all, there is no shortage of news in this community but journalists have to be interested in knowing where Home Hill is and finding that news. The original regional papers that served the district well disappeared in one big sad loss throughout the state and there is now the second “local” paper appearing weekly, but we are still the only paper providing all the Home Hill stories of interest to readers on a monthly basis. We are regularly asked to keep the paper going and we will as long as we are able—and while we still have the whole-hearted support of the local community. Our thanks to all our readers for their continuing support ever since that first edition, to the contributors to our pages such as Uli Liessmann and Jeanette Garvey at Groper Creek and to the Chamber for their ongoing support.

THE new Burdekin Shire Council is up and running and it is pleasing to see that the new Mayor and councillors have been showing a strong

The finer points of Home Hill . .

CAN our readers notice the difference in this photo compared to previous issues where we highlighted one of the featured Ti-Trees in the Central Business District that has been on its way out for some time? The new council has taken office and one of its first actions was to remove the unsightly tree from our main street. We have pushed the problem tree regularly as it was something that we felt was detracting from our central business district, along with many other problem areas that we have again raised with the new councillors. We have also raised the dangerous situation with the dilapidated buildings in the background of the picture that also lower the outlook of the town centre, as well as being a hazard to neighbouring shops. The shops are being offered for sale by the council because of unpaid rates—and we have asked the question as to whether the council has the right to demolish the building if it is currently in pos-

interest in what is happening in the Home Hill community. In fact we had an approach from new councillor, Amanda Hall asking to meet and discuss some of the problem areas that we saw in the town’s Central Business District. That led to lengthy on-the-spot discussions in the CBD, where we pointed out areas that needed some urgent action, such as overgrown blocks of land, dilapidated buildings that are an eyesore and even worse, a hazard to neighbouring buildings and, of course, that dead tree that greeted visitors entering the western side of Eighth Avenue. We hope that all of the areas of concern can be dealt with as soon as possible and within what is allowable under Department of Local Government regulations.

WE HAVE mentioned in the past the poor condition of the footpaths in Eighth Avenue, which are covered in dirt, black snow during the crushing and pigeon droppings and showing signs of wear and tear, where heavy vehicles have been driven over them.

session of it? There cannot be much difference in a sale price between it being sold with or without the building, considering its condition, especially after vandals have been inside it. As vacant land, the area would be ideal for parking, considering the need for more spaces for cars close to the popular Doctor’s Surgery.



When the State Government elections were due four years ago, the then state Opposition pledged to provide a small vehicle to assist with keeping our town’s footpaths clean, but the council at the time rejected the election promise because, we understand, of a lack of council staff to operate it. Just think what an advantage such a machine would be in keeping our footpaths clean—not just in Home Hill but throughout the Shire. If the same offer was made as this year’s election moves closer, we will have to ask the new council if they would be agreeable to accept the offer—then it would depend on if the current Opposition is elected?

CONGRATULATIONS to the youth of the district who turned out in force for the Anzac Day celebrations in Home Hill. From the Dawn Service through to the finale at the Cenotaph, primary and secondary schools from throughout the district were well represented in all aspects of the commemorations. Crowds continue to grow at all local ceremonies, which augers well for the future of Anzac Day. - DAVID JACKSON

Community support for all Anzac Day parades

Continued from Page 1—

The main parade, which moved off from Tenth Avenue, in front of the Burdekin Brass Band Hall, highlighted the importance of the participation of the various local schools, with large numbers of students from both Primary and Secondary Schools throughout the Shire forming the basis of the parade amongst the dwindling numbers of ex-servicemen and women, some of whom took advantage of a seat in restored army vehicles that led the parade.

The parade terminated at the Home Hill Cenotaph, where the main Anzac Day service took place – again led by the President of the Home Hill Sub-Branch of the RSL, Richard Kelly and supported by several other speakers including Cr John Furnell from the Burdekin Shire Council, Padre Baildon, Member for Burdekin Dale Last MP and Wing Commander Paul Howard and High School Captain, Saelym Poli.

Wing Commander Howard told the Home Hill ceremonies of his service in the RAAF as an Air Traffic Controller, having joined the Royal Air Force in Great Britain before making the move to Australia, where he was initially destined for a position in Darwin, before taking up a posting at the RAAF in Townsville.

The Anzac Day services concluded with another lengthy wreath-laying ceremony involving many ex-service representatives, students from the four Burdekin District High Schools and local Primary and Pre-Schools, various local organisations, political representatives and individuals.

Many of the participants also appreciated the refreshments provided after the services, taking into account the day had started with cool weather conditions but changed quickly to a typical North Queensland hot autumn day.



Part of the large crowd that joined in the Home Hill Dawn Parade at the Cenotaph



The Cemetery Parade honoured ex-servicemen and women who are buried there



Home Hill High School students led the parade as flag bearers



Family members joined ex-servicemen and women at the head of the parade



Schools from throughout the district were well represented in the parade



LEFT—Julie Welsh (left) and Josephine Edgerton joined the Home Hill Anzac Day parade to honour their fathers. Julie's father, Richard John Welsh served with the 9th Field Ambulance in Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. Josephine's father, Ernie Woods was a National Serviceman stationed at Selheim near Charters Towers

Positive April race meeting ahead of Growers Race Day

THE Burdekin Race Club's April race meeting "went well", according to club president, Ricky Gudge, with great acceptances and close racing, even after drizzly rain during the morning.

"As a result, the track held up well and was not too badly cut up," Mr Gudge said. He told a recent club meeting that they had "a few issues" with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) regarding no correspondence on the supply of judges and photo finish operators (following changes that were made in how those positions were operated).

However, after quite a few phone calls, the issue was "sort of rectified".

"Unfortunately, we only had one person allocated to conduct both positions," he commented.

"Fortunately, our long-time judge was willing to jump into his old job to have results received much faster." Mr Gudge said he would be taking the problem up with the authorities to try to have the problem sorted.

With just under six weeks (at that time) until Growers Race Day is with the club, Mr Gudge said preparations were going well with tickets going on sale early in April. He said the club would need to have "a few working bees" in the coming weeks to have everything up to the club's standards.

"A few changes had been made to their usual marquee and stage layout, which would be a "wait and see if it was a successful move," he said.

Several improvements are being undertaken at the Burdekin Club in the lead-up to the Growers' race day including the replacement of

the fence along in front of the public area from the main grandstand down in front of all the marquees, which will make it much safer for the large crowd that attends the race day. The club is also planning a new front entrance, with Mr Gudge also having discussions with an electrician with regard to lighting up the area around the gates, while work will also be carried out on installing the course sound system on the fence once it is completed and also on "beefing up the sound" around the grounds on the Growers' Race Day.

Discussions have also been held between the club and four senior jockeys with regard to returning to 12 starters in races from the 1000 metre start.

However, the four jockeys were unanimous in saying they preferred it to stay at the current 10 starters.

The club has also ensured they are legal with the provision of gear to barrier hands at race starts, with a substantial amount being spent on buying new gear, with Mr Gudge advising the recent meeting that they were now covered, should something go wrong.



Top weight, Sophia's Lass (Rebecca Wilson) wins the Hop Hop Hop Benchmark 45 Handicap from Lightheadedness (Scott Sheergold)



Jockey Lacey Morrison returns to the saddling enclosure on the Joshua Manzelmann-trained Bold Hunter, her third victory on the six-race program in Home Hill on Saturday, April 6



Burdekin Race Club Steward, Doug Chappell was forced to take evasive action after a horse lashed out in the saddling enclosure before a race, causing the damage to the fence panel in the photo. After a vet check, the horse was allowed to enter the race, but it again played up on entering the track and was deemed to be a late scratching from the race.

Race dates for 2024-25

THE Burdekin Race Club has announced its allocated race dates for the next year on the Home Hill track.

The racing dates for 2024-25 are—
Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (TAB meeting);

Saturday, November 2, 2024 (Derby Day);

Saturday, February 15, 2025;

Saturday, April 5, 2025;

Saturday, May 17, 2025 (Burdekin Growers Race Day);

Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Surprise “Life” honour for Race Club leaders

THERE is not much that Burdekin Race Club President, Ricky Gudge and his wife, Secretary/Treasurer Leanne do not know about what is happening at the club – but they were caught by surprise at the April race meeting when they were both presented with Life Memberships of the club by Patron and current Life Member, Charlie Barbagallo.

During a break in the six-race program, Mr Barbagallo attracted the attention of the crowd to highlight the presentation of the recognition to the two people who have devoted many years to the development of the Bur-

dekin Race Club into what it is today.

Mr Gudge has been a trainer based in Home Hill for several years, while also taking on the leadership role from former President, Torrie Davies several years ago.

He also watches over the club's facilities including regular watering to ensure the track is in good order for the regular race meetings held on the track throughout the year.

Mrs Gudge has held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for many years – a major task to hold just one of the positions in any Race Club, without taking on



Burdekin Race Club Vice-President, Ron Scott (left) and Club Patron, Charlie Barbagallo (Right) with the club's newest life members, Leanne and Ricky Gudge

the second role.

However, she has competently carried out both positions keeping club members up to date with what is happening as secretary while also watching over the treasury which has the club in a

very good position at the present time.

And she also leads the way with the organisation of the Burdekin Growers Race Day, which will be held on the Home Hill track on Saturday, May 18.

New fence line to improve race day safety

MEMBERS of the Burdekin Race Club have been busily making preparations for their biggest race day of the year—the hugely popular Burdekin Growers Race Day to be held on Saturday, May 18.

One of the biggest projects facing the club's volunteers is the replacement of the fence line along the public area between the track and

the grandstand and the many marquees on course down to the corner of the track into the straight where the main race, the Burdekin Cup starts.

A small number of members have undertaken a large job to replace the former metal fence with a much stronger fence which will improve safety for race-goers on the big day.



Part of the new fence line and what was left of the former fence to the 1800 metre start



Race Club volunteers (from left) Ricky Gudge, Ron Scott, Jim Olsen (obscured) and John Woodward work on replacing the fence line between the track and the main public area

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Action aplenty in Canefields Ashes weekend

CRICKET fanatics from throughout North Queensland converged on Home Hill in April for the annual Eugene Pagotto Memorial Canefield Ashes Carnival played on up to eight wickets in the centre of the Home Hill Race track as well as at a number of Home Hill schools.

Cars nearly obscured the tennis complex as teams enjoyed the weekend competition.

All the winners from the 2024 Canefield Ashes in all grades—

Most Catches: Reece McCubben (Zookickers); Most Ducks: Jack Castrejana (Home Hill Bandits); Most 6's: Mitch Bradford (Sugar Daddies);

Highest Score: Chris Mann (Nomads).

SOCIAL GRADE - Most Runs - Jarrod Camer (Home Hill Bandits); Most Wickets: Michael Carra (Moore's Marauders); Social Grade Player of the Carnival: Deegan Woods (Shouldawornabox); Runners up: Shouldawornabox; Winners - Borders XI.

C GRADE - Most Runs: Salvatore Cardillo (Sledgers XI); Most Wickets: Dan Olditch (Sledgers XI); C Grade Player of the Carnival: Bryce Stockdale (Bulldgers XI); Runners up: Canefield Slashers; Winners: Bulldgers XI.

B GRADE—Batting Aggregate: Lee Watts (Horny

Bulls); Batting Average: Alex Brown (Clout'n'Out); Bowling Aggregate: Chris Stainsby (Thirsty Rhinos); Bowling Average: Daniel Borgh (Bowen Chargers); B Grade Player of the Carnival - Matthew Ryder (Castlemain Kings); Runners up: Honeycombes JD; Winners: Bowen Chargers.

A GRADE - Batting Aggregate: Andy Ballin (Ben Dovers); Batting Average: Mitchell Carmen (MVM); Bowling Aggregate: Damien Ricketts (Victorious Secret); Bowling Average: Brendan Williams (Wackers); A Grade Player of the Carnival: Grant Dilger (Bumbos XI); Runners up: Sugar Daddies; Winners: Ben Dovers.



Home Hill Library celebrates its fortieth birthday

PAST and present staff members of the Burdekin Library, Home Hill Branch were joined by a number of their regular users to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of the official opening of the library on April 7, 1984.

That opening followed in the week after the official opening of the then new Burdekin Library in Ayr and provided a new library in Home Hill after originally operating from two rooms at the front of what was the Home Hill School of Arts, situated adjacent to the Home Hill Memorial Hall.

Current Council Library Officer, Carli Kovacich, who has been in the role for three

years, was joined in the cutting of the celebration Birthday Cake by her predecessor of 27 years, Jocelyn Defranciscis, while many others also joined in the reminiscing over their years of Library service.

They included Lindy Reinke, Caitlin Schlieff, Judith Dallachy, Tia Henaway, Courtney Chatfield, Michelle Felesina, Kerry Pensini and Margaret Pirrone.

Another former staff member, Helen Glover was unable to attend, but passed on her best wishes to all those involved in the celebrations.

Ms Kovacich highlighted the fact that the

Library was more than just a place to borrow books and read, as she pointed out that Library members also had access to computers, wifi and printing.

She said it was also regarded as a "cool, safe place" and a "quiet place" with its air conditioning, especially in hot weather.

Ms Kovacich is also available as a Justice of the Peace to assist local residents requiring that service.



Current and past Council Library Officers who have served users of the Home Hill Library include (from left, back) Lindy Reinke, Caitlin Schlieff, Judith Dallachy, Tia Henaway and Courtney Chatfield and (front) Michelle Felesina, Kerry Pensini, Carli Kovacich, Margaret Pirrone and Jocelyn Defranciscis



The cutting of the celebration cake was carried out by the current Library Officer, Carli Kovacich (left) and her predecessor, Jocelyn Defranciscis



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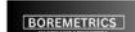
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Chamber support for Chaplaincy work

AN address by a school chaplain to the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce in March has proven beneficial to the Home Hill High School's Chaplaincy program, with the Chamber executive approving a donation of \$500, which was presented at the start of the April meeting to the High School's long-serving chaplain, Jennie Dowie.

Having been in the position of school chaplain for almost 17 years, Ms Dowie described her school as "truly a caring school community that I am so very proud to be a part of".

She said her role was to provide social, emotional and spiritual support for students, parents and carers, as well as staff.

"I have now been working with youth and families for almost 29 years and it is this experience and my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, Welfare Studies and Counselling that I utilise to provide the best support I can," she said.

"I just love to journey with our students, as they navigate their life of ups and downs and I love to help them find their inner strengths and discover who they are.

"I believe in supporting our students holistically and I am passionate about helping our students to obtain a healthy self-esteem, strong resiliency and skills such as conflict resolution and stress management," Ms Dowie said.

"As school chaplain, I focus on prevention and support; helping students find a better way to deal with a range of issues from family breakdown, grief, peer pressure and loneliness, to substance abuse, depression and anxiety.

"I aim to provide a non-judgmental, accessible, listening ear and a caring presence for not only for our kids in crisis, but also for those who just need a friend."

Ms Dowie said she was "so very happy that Home Hill High continues to place a great emphasis on the holistic wellbeing of our students and staff, which includes good mental health".

"With the amazing support of the school, I try to provide the best care practices and support for our entire school community," she said.

"I continue to believe my role as school chaplain at Home Hill State High School is to help our students, carers and staff to live in

victory by learning strategies that will empower them and those around them.

"Overcoming negative and destructive mindsets is one of them," she said.

Ms Dowie said another part of caring for the holistic needs of their students sometimes means feeding the hungry, whether it be through their free Lunch Club or Brekkie club, or by organising food hampers to families in need.

"I just love greeting students when they arrive to school in the morning and making them some warm toast or milo etc when they need it.

"I love asking them about their weekend and chatting about their plans for the week ahead," she said. "They all have the most beautiful manners and many offer to help in the kitchen.

"I always walk away feeling blessed from my interactions with them.

"I believe both our breakfast and lunch programs are vital. We all know that students who are fed, are better able to concentrate, focus and sit still, thereby setting themselves up for better learning opportunities."

Ms Dowie said she would continue to aim to offer qualified, caring and accessible support to their whole school community. "I currently work at the school three days a week and, unfortunately, only approximately one day is funded by the government.

"This means that myself and my chaplaincy committee has to fundraise for the rest, which is in excess of \$30,000 a year for my school alone."

She said that, thankfully, Home Hill High and its Parents and Citizens Association were able to



Home Hill Chamber Treasurer, John Clarke after the presentation of the \$500 donation to Home Hill High School Chaplain, Jennie Dowie

help with some of this but if she was honest, the ongoing burden to raise funds in order to support Home Hill's youth can at times be taxing.

Ms Dowie said she could not thank the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce enough for their support of the school chaplaincy at Home Hill High.

THE guest speaker for the April meeting was long-serving Ayr Rotarian, Tony Goddard, who spoke of his many years with the club and the work that was carried out by its members, as well as those in the Home Hill Rotary Club, in raising funds through various methods.

That money was then used to assist the many charities throughout Ayr and the Burdekin district as a whole, with thousands of dollars raised and distributed through their efforts.



Guest speaker, Tony Goddard (centre) with Home Hill Chamber secretary, Robert Antoniazzi (left) and Vice President Uli Liessmann

Two new locos for next Inkerman Mill crushing

WILMAR Sugar and Renewables has delivered the first of four new \$2 million locomotives to its home base, with two of the new locos destined to haul bins at Inkerman Mill at Home Hill during the coming sugar production season, which is due to start in June

The first of the new locos, Alma, is now at Inkerman Mill while a second, Kirknie, will arrive at the mill in June. The other two, Leichhardt and Hinchinbrook, are heading to the Herbert region.

The four new locos are modelled on the Brisbane, which Wilmar designed and built from the ground up and launched last year.

Burdekin Cane Supply Manager, John Tait said the Alma was an exciting new addition to Inkerman's fleet and would have a positive impact on reliability.

"Inkerman Mill has an ageing fleet and although our current locos do maintain reliability, Alma will be pivotal in improving the fleet's overall cane-hauling capacity," Mr Tait com-

mented.

Senior Project Engineer, Chris Weight, who has managed the final phase of the new builds, said the works program had included four new locos and two brake wagons, worth about \$9 million in total.

"It was a big undertaking to complete all of the new builds in a single maintenance season and I'm really proud of the teams who have worked so hard to deliver this package of work," Mr Weight said.

Alma has the honour of being the first locomotive to feature the new Wilmar Sugar and Renewables logo.

The new builds are part of a much larger program to upgrade the extensive loco fleet across Wilmar Sugar and Renewables' four milling regions.

Wilmar Sugar and Renewables owns and operates 74 locos and has more than 1600 kilometres of cane rail network across the Herbert, Burdekin, Proserpine and Sarina regions.



Two cranes were used to lift one of the new Inkerman Mill locos, the 'Alma' off the transport, by its front and back toe-ball, before lowering it on to the railway line .

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

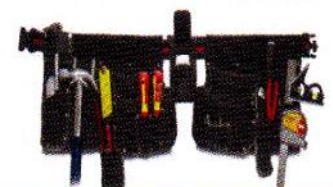
Matthew 11, Verse 28

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An internal view of the driver's cabin of the new Alma locomotive that has been introduced to Inkerman Mill

Fashionable rags hit the runway

THE ability to be able to sew was tested for entrants in the Burdekin Artisan Community Association Inc. Rags to Runway competition at the Greek Hall in Home Hill recently.

The eight entrants provided a total of 27 entries across the seven sections of the competition in which they had to turn old second hand garments into fashionable outfits including racewear. The sections also included budget items and accessories, while the newest of seamstresses were given the opportunity to display their talents in the junior sections. After seeing the various entries, the guests at the competition were invited to enter into the entertain-

ment by making their own fashionable items using plastic bags, sticky tape and scissors.

Prize winners were—Junior up to 13 years (Wilmar Sugar): Zahli Keating 1, Elora Keating 2; Juniors, 14—18 years (Wilmar Sugar): Taylor Luke 1; Open (Ergon): Kathy Contzonis 1, Lyn Luke 2; Racewear (PSK Wealth): Kathy Contzonis 1, Desley Jackson 2; Budget (Bendigo): Lyn Luke 1, Desley Jackson 2; Trendsetter Racewear Budget (Christine Morton, Ergon): Kathy Contzonis 1, Lyn Luke 2. Accessories (NQ Green Solutions Containers for Change): Desley Jackson 1, Rebekah Oakes 2.



LEFT—Entrants in the Open section of the Rags to Runway competition; BELOW—After seeing the competition entries, guests at each table were given the task of developing a fashionable garment from garbage bags, sticky tape and a pair of scissors



Parliament Update

WE are lucky enough to live in a part of the country with some of the greatest coastlines to enjoy but, just as we do if we get into trouble on our roads, we need assurances that if tragedy strikes at sea, help is on the way. As I write this, I am in the midst of the fourth sitting of parliament for 2024 and legislation that will guide the future of how our marine rescue sector operates, is yet to be debated. While we have seen promises of a new and united future for the marine rescue sector, what has ultimately resulted has left more questions than answers for our volunteers and a looming July 1 transition deadline for the first VMR squadrons and Coastguard flotillas.

Housing crucial to economy

IT IS an issue gripping our state right now and while it may seem like it is only being experienced by larger regional towns and cities, the Burdekin is also staring down the barrel of a housing crisis with only a few rental properties and blown out waiting lists for social housing. Sadly, my office has received stories of families who have been forced to consider moving away from the Burdekin or sleep in farm sheds simply because there isn't the housing available here for them. In areas like the Burdekin, this issue has far reaching impacts where we are relying on being able to attract and retain new people in the area for employment opportunities. Already, the LNP has called for more to be done to encourage investment and unlock land for housing. We've seen plan after plan, roundtables

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and a summit when it comes to addressing housing by this government and little action, particularly when it comes to smaller townships like Ayr or Home Hill.

Community calls for crime solution ignored

DESPITE thousands of local residents and business owners putting pen to paper to call for more plain clothes officers in the Burdekin, the Minister has once again left the region with stretched police resources and frustrated residents to fight a surge in youth crime. Following soaring crime rates and a community left frustrated by instances of youth crime in the area, more than 3000 business owners and residents signed the petition for bolstered local police and funding for interim security patrols. The Minister's response to the petition was a slap in the face to every victim of crime and front-line police officer in the Burdekin. Community safety falls squarely at the feet of this Minister and once again, he has demonstrated he's willing to leave residents and business owners in Ayr and Home Hill to take matters into their own hands.

Over recent months, we've seen business owners and residents left to conduct after hours patrols just to ensure their cars are still in the driveway the next morning and going by the response from the Minister, obviously he considers that acceptable in our small town.

Not only did the Minister shirk requests for additional security patrols to ensure community safety, he's ignored calls from within for additional plain clothes officers at Ayr Police Station.

The Minister's attempt to side-step the responsibility of providing additional po-

lice resources to the Commissioner was a clear sign he wasn't interested in improving community safety in the Burdekin.

Queenslanders have seen through the campaign line about increased police numbers in the state and we know that, in fact, there were 322 less police officers in Queensland between July 2022 and December last year and that is not good enough.

Despite claiming that allocating resources is a matter for the commissioner, the reality is that the Minister could overrule the commissioner and, in fact, could have provided the additional plain clothes officers.

We may not live in a bigger city or regional town but it doesn't mean we should be left to feel we need to fend off young offenders on our own because the Minister has ignored calls from within our police and community for more resources.

Here to help

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

Until next time, stay safe and well

Dale

Uli Liessmann comments . .

THIS is the one hundredth copy of *The Home Hill News* in approximately nine years.

I enjoy writing this column every month, although sometimes it is hard to find a happy medium on what to write about, because there is always someone who does not agree with my views—. However, we are all allowed our own opinion. The best part is getting feedback, whether is positive or negative and especially when someone wants to really rip into me over something that I have written and they do not agree. This tells me I have hit a sore point, but just remember, this is only my opinion for what it is worth. Now if you want to say anything and it is printable, I will gladly put it in my column. Anyway, thanks for reading the Home Hill Newsletter and my column.

NOW that the elections are over and the new Council has settled in, I have this positive feeling that there is a change in the air and only time will tell. Please do not prove me wrong, as the ball is in your court. Try to keep stuff-ups to a minimum or bury them before they get out.



THE new flower pots and seats in the main street all look great and once the plants are established, the street will be a welcome sight. Maybe Lloyd Mann Gardens in Home Hill could get a couple of park benches placed along the pathways. So that people can sit and contemplate

the surroundings. Maybe a thought for the upcoming budget!

AFTER only six years, the Comfort Stop has received a facelift and it looks great. Accolades and thanks to the guys who carried out this job—a vast improvement, which will add



to the overall aesthetics of our town.

Also the notice board at the Comfort Stop (left) with header is now finished.



AS I am drafting this article, Anzac Day is approaching and when you have read this article, it will be over. I wonder just how many people reflected on the meaning of the day? Look around and listen to the news—it is not looking good throughout the world with current updates about the many casualties in all battlefields or should I say, conflicts. As soon as one side gets the upper hand, whether right or wrong, the rest of the world of do-gooders cry foul, because it is popular or the 'in' thing to do. This is done in the comfort of their abode or on the streets where they get police protection. I am led to



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

believe and from what I have just read in an article about ADF personnel, both men and women being tough and resilient is no longer good enough but now they need to be culturally aware. I cannot for the world believe that this would be part of the ADF strategy. It would have had to come from political want-a-bees. This, though, will be weakening our defence forces and next, we will be using rubber bullets to defend ourselves and the other side will use armed drones. Army dog handlers now must undertake training in cultural awareness in case the person that they are trying to apprehend has a fear of dogs. I thought that was the idea. I suppose the handler must first ask the offender if it is okay to use the dog. This is just an example of what is occurring. The ADF must work with two rules, our rules and no rules from the other side. This would be laughable, were it as I believe it to be true.

THE Ephemera part of the Home Hill Harvest Festival is well on its way with the planning stages. I am also led to believe that some of the installations for the Ephemera are already under way, so, get yourself an entry form, get involved and make something. It will make you feel better and you will contribute to the community and Home Hill.



HOW many signs do we need in one street, in this case MacMillan Street, Ayr to indicate the way to Bowen? I believe there are five in this one street, which is a bit over the top. I always thought Home Hill was before Bowen? Maybe they over ordered on the signs and they had to be used.

HERE is joke and have a laugh, it's free—I went into the confessional box after many years of being away from the Catholic Church. Inside I found a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On one wall, there was a row of decanters with fine Irish whiskey and Waterford crystal glasses. On the other wall was a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates. When the priest came in, I said to him, "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be." He replied, "You moron, you're on my side."

THESE are my opinions and views only. To contact me, please phone (mobile) 0439 822 064 or go to www.uliliessmann.com.au

- ULI LIESSMANN

Council trials new method of managing flying fox population

THE Burdekin Shire Council has trialled a new initiative to manage the flying fox population in the Home Hill Memorial Park, ahead of the recent Anzac Day commemorations in the town.

From 5.30am to 7am on Wednesday, April 24, Council trialled the non-invasive dispersal method that has been shown to be effective in other communities.

The new approach involved the use of a small, portable smoke machine that emitted a safe, non-toxic, non-irritant and water-based smoke, ensuring no harm to people,

pets or wildlife.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the trial represented a step forward in their long-term management plan for flying foxes.

"Council would like to thank the 68 participants who contributed to the online survey, which provided valuable data," Cr Dalle Cort said.

"The consultants are now incorporating the results into the Flying Fox Management Plan and a draft of the plan will be available soon for community consultation."

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.