

HOME HILL NEWS

Greetings from the Home Hill Business Community

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Issue No 101, June 2024

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Inkerman crushing start June 6

Barring EA negotiations

THE sugar crushing season at Inkerman Mill at Home Hill is planned to commence on Thursday, June 6 – barring ongoing Enterprise Agreement (EA) negotiations.

Inkerman Mill Manager Operations, Glenn Nicholson said they currently plan to start production at Inkerman Mill on June 6, “however, while EA negotiations continue, there is potential for the planned start date to be pushed back further”.

Mr Nicholson said the Mill started their pre-season commissioning program in the last week of April. “This process is in place to ensure a smooth start to production operations and includes our annual steam trials,” he said.

“Inkerman Mill ran a successful first steam trial on Thursday, May 16 and the

second Inkerman steam trial is planned for Tuesday, May 28.”

This year’s Burdekin crop estimate is 8.47M tonnes, which is up on last year’s total throughput of 8.03M tonnes

Inkerman Mill’s crop is estimated at 1.78 million tonnes, which is slightly higher than last year’s total.

Mr Nicholson said Wilmar Sugar and Renewables was spending almost \$8M on capital and maintenance works at Inkerman Mill this year

- The major capital projects for Inkerman Mill ahead of the 2024 production season included -
- Overhaul and extension of the evaporator switch room - \$2.3M. Work is completed and the mill is now into commissioning;



The low speed gearing on the No 1 Mill A Side at Inkerman Mill, on which work is nearing completion. (Wilmar photo supplied)

- Installation of pan 2 condenser - \$996,500. Work is completed and the mill is now into commissioning;
- Installation of low-speed gearing for the A side No.1 mill - \$330,400 - work is nearing completion;
- Feedwater strainer access replacement – \$300,000 - replacement of pipework has been completed and the remainder of the project is undergoing its final stages of installation;
- The new 26-tonne loco *Alma* - \$2M - work is completed, delivered and ready to begin service this production season.



Jodi Davies in action for the Postcard Lifers

Sugar Bowl team spirit winners

THE Woods Team Spirit Trophy at the annual Home Hill Tennis Association’s Sugar Bowl tournament was deservedly won by Kylie Newman’s Postcard Lifers, which boasted five of the Davies cousins in the team. Full results and photos are inside on Page 6.



The Woods’ Team Spirit Trophy, presented by Josh Woods (centre), was won by Kylie Newman’s Postcard Lifers, which comprised (from left) Helen Burbidge, Tanya Bartlett, Dianne Edwards, Kylie Newman, Brooke Davies and Jackelyn Coghill. Absent team members were Janelle Hayes, Jodi Davies and Siobhan Williams.

WE HAVE for a long time urged the Burdekin Shire Council to put more effort into cleaning up Home Hill's Central Business District, with a view to making a better impression on the many visitors who either stop in the town or even just past through. However, we have also stressed the importance of the town's businesses taking the time to look after the frontage of their own patch in the main street—in other words, devote some time to sweeping the footpath and even using a hose to regularly give the pavers a washdown. A local resident has reminded us of the need for businesses to work with the council in keeping the CBD clean by pointing out just how shabby and unclean some of the shop fronts are at the present time. Maybe if the businesses are seen to be doing something, it might move the council to play their part. We are aware that some businesses do not have access to water at their frontages, but if that is the case, a good sweep with a broom and a bucket of water on a regular basis would help to keep it clean. That bucket of water would also help to keep the plants in the recently installed planter boxes in Eighth Avenue in a more healthy state. If businesses have a planter box in front of their premises or even an adjoining vacant premises, please play your part in keeping the plants alive.

WE HAVE had a query from a long-time local resident about the early

flowers on many mango trees throughout the Burdekin



The finer points of Home Hill . .

IT IS hard to understand what goes through the minds of people who insist on destroying gardens that are developed through the hard work of council employees and, in many cases, volunteers in small communities. Our picture was taken at the front of the Burdekin Memorial Hall during the recent Craft Fair, where the gardens have been installed as part of the upgrade to the hall and its facilities. At first we thought it might have been an animal but why would an animal break plants off half way up the stem? Maybe it would help if the culprits, when caught, instead of letting them off with just a slap on the wrist, were ordered to clean up their mess and look after the garden for some time after the damage was caused. Unfortunately, that would identify them, which is why their offences cannot be reported at an early age. Some patrons of the Craft Fair had suggestions as to what should happen to the offenders.



District. We had noticed the early appearance of the flowers, which is not limited to trees just in one area of the district—they are everywhere! We did notice last year where trees in some cases had two crops during the year—which became more noticeable when more flowers appeared while there were developing mangoes on trees throughout the area. The same thing could occur this year, if the early flowers develop into fruit before another lot of flowers appear. It is certainly not something mango lovers would complain about, having two crops in the one season.

SPORT has certainly been in the news in Home Hill in April and May and the town hosts four major events over the two months with the Canefield Ashes Cricket Carnival bringing 40 plus teams to the town in April, followed by a similar number of teams plus their supporters adding to the economy of our town and district at the Sugar Bowl tennis tournament that the Home Hill Tennis Association has hosted for 40 years (Turn to page 6 for full details). Then there was the Burdekin Race Club's annual Burdekin Growers Race Day in May, which again

drew thousands to the Home Hill track for excellent racing and even more prominent fashions on show—and again a massive boost to the economy of the town and district. And not forgetting the Burdekin Netball Carnival which had visiting teams here for a weekend of games. It has to be noted that a great deal of voluntary work goes into the organisation and running of these major events and it is important that the people concerned continue to be recognised for their efforts. It was interesting to note that the week after the racing was National Volunteers Week, which recognises the invaluable contributions of volunteers across the region and that recognition coincided with a comment that was made to us after the race day that "the events are becoming too big for the people who were working for them". In other words, while local residents love supporting these events, more volunteers are going to have to devote their time to assisting—and then taking over from those who are doing such a good job now. Come on the younger generations—There are many local organisations asking for you to put your hands up to assist them to keep these major events going for the good of the local community.

DAVID JACKSON

Transport dominates Chamber social meeting

THE Home Hill Chamber of Commerce monthly social meetings at the Home Hill Community Sports Club continue to draw good numbers as guest speakers raise issues of interest the residents of the community.

That was the case at the May meeting, where State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last was the guest speaker and spoke on a variety of subjects relevant to his huge electorate which extends from near Townsville south-west to the mining town of Clermont and surrounding areas.

However, the debate was directed towards the need for public transport in the Burdekin Shire, with Mrs Jan Bennett asking about what could be done to improve the situation in the Burdekin where a public transport system does not exist. She told the meeting that she was a carer for her husband, who was much older than her and they found it difficult to access adequate transport to meet appointments, even with the service provided by the Burdekin Community Association (BCA). The debate took a large part of the meeting with the Chamber offering to discuss the problem at its next executive meeting in June.

However, it is a problem that will be hard to overcome, as attempts by previous councils have been unsuccessful in trying to develop a bus service in the district because of the lack of passengers..

Both Mr Last and the Chief Executive Officer of the BCA, Debra Cochren indicated that they had provided what assistance they could towards transport services in the community.

Home Hill Chamber of Commerce President David Jackson said the chamber would raise the issue at their executive meeting, but it was not something that would be solved overnight, as there would be a lot to consider in conjunction with both local and state governments.



Local resident, Jan Bennett (left) raised the issue of public transport in the Lower Burdekin district with Chamber of Commerce guest speaker, Dale Last MP, Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort and Chamber Vice President, Uli Liessmann.



Mrs Hilda Frew, with her certificate from the Burdekin Chaplains and her table of bed socks in front of the Home Hill Newsagency, where they will be on sale in the near future.

HOME HILL resident, Hilda Frew is again planning to sell her knitted bed socks in the Home Hill Central Business District as she continues her ongoing support for School Chaplains in the Burdekin.

Hilda (90) has been a strong supporter of the Chaplains in the past and she has been recognised with the presentation of a certificate (pictured) by the Scripture Union Queensland for her ongoing support. She has a large number of her "Cosy bed socks", which she has been knitting over a long period and she is still knitting to ensure she has the numbers to accommodate her supporters. Once again, Hilda will be setting up her stall in front of the Home Hill News & Coffee at some time in the next month, although an actual date has not been finalised as *The Home Hill News* was printed.

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 —



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

Next meeting:

Tuesday, August 27, 2024
(TAB meeting)

November follow-up for successful Craft Spectacular



Amanda Daley with the products at her craft stall



Betty Lucas and Jenny Powell assisted with competition entries



Rhonda Whare, Anne Byrnes and Naomi Brown were on hand to assist visitors to the Craft Spectacular



Kathleen Cross, Sandi Milani and Desley Jackson promoted the Burdekin Artisans' products

THE Burdekin Uniting Church has extended "a great big thank you" to all of their stall holders, volunteers, demonstrators and competition entrants for all of their work towards the 2024 Craft Spectacular. "Thank you also to the Burdekin Community and beyond who attended our day, enjoying the array of stalls, many of which were new," a Church spokesperson said as they announced that the array of stalls "are coming again on the **November 30, 2024**".

The Church has announced that "The Craft Spectacular will now be held pre-Christmas, which solves quite a few of those issues about what to get for our family and friends".

"The day is also a time to replenish your stocks of delicious cakes and biscuits and other goodies at Margaret Taylor's stall.

"The book stall (generously supplied by the Presbyterian Church) was also a hit this year and will be returning with the cakes etc. on **November 30, 2024**," the church spokesperson said.

"Many enjoyed coffee and cake or a lunch of quiche or sandwiches as a catch-up with friends in the dining hall and a short respite from shopping and demonstrations.

"Those special treats from the high tea trolley were delicious." The Burdekin Uniting Church has also thanked their demonstrators, Paula Matthews, Janell Rutland, the Burdekin Artisans and Josephine Edgerton.

"It was very interesting and well done," they commented, as they

advised that "more demonstrations in November are to be announced".

Congratulations were also extended to the Craft Spectacular competition winners.

"Our Mother's Day Gift or Card (any medium) was won by Margaret Taylor in the senior section and Sophie Orr in the Junior section," they announced. "The guessing competition was won by Anne Byrnes (a beautiful quilt) and R. Earle won the hand-made mat (both made by Margaret Taylor).

"The children enjoyed their activity finding all the bird houses on the stalls and

their gift after." The Burdekin Uniting Church spokesperson said they all enjoyed the day and its success.

"Our Mother's Day Competition raised much needed funds for our Burdekin School Chaplains," they said. "However, we feel due to popular demand that a better time is before Christmas and we invite you and your friends to come and enjoy a beautiful day at our next Craft Spectacular on **November 30, 2024**.

"Thank you - may God hold you in the palm of His hand. See you soon."



Nancy and Ray Schneider at their Jewellery stall



The stall offered a wide range of delights to take home, with the assistance of (from left) Robyn Schultz, Jane Beckett, Margaret Taylor and Judy Chatham



The dining hall workers ensured there was a delicious range of food available at the Craft Spectacular

Malpass Hotel is changing with the times

CHANGING times means major changes are being made to the operations of the Malpass Hotel in Home Hill, with the owners of the business for the last eight months, Lilibeth and Jun, adding to the extensive alterations they have made to the premises by making changes to operating times and to the layout of various sections of the hotel.

Lilibeth said it had been very quiet business-wise, meaning they had to make changes to overcome the costs in areas such as wages and air conditioning. "History is changing," she said. "Nobody is coming into the hotel to drink at the bar regularly like they used to. "That means we have to look at how the business operates."

She said that, for now, they had six poker machines but, in the future, there would be no gaming machines in the hotel. "We have already stopped the Keno and the TAB," Lilibeth said.

"We will be closing the bar area until we have a better plan and we know what we can do there in the future. "The Cutters Café will be changed to a Bar and Bistro, with a new serving area and it will **open from Wednesday to Saturday for Lunch and Dinner.**"

Lilibeth said they wanted to promote a family atmosphere for the Bar and Bistro area, where customers could sit inside or they could go the newly upgraded area at the back of the hotel, where there are many tables as well as a huge playground area. The popular Drive-In Bottle Department will continue to

operate seven days a week from 10am till late.

Bookings can be made through that area for the upgraded accommodation rooms.

The Malpass Hotel is celebrating its Centenary Year in 2024.



ABOVE—Malpass Hotel owners, Jun and Lilibeth in the upgraded back area of the premises, which adds a new Family Atmosphere for patrons of the Bar and Bistro



LEFT—All takeaway alcohol requirements are available at the Liquor Legends Drive-In Bottle Department

Liquor Legends
reward yourself

The changing face of

The Malpass Hotel

2023 when new owners took over

2024—the upgraded hotel as work continues on changes

All accommodation rooms have been upgraded at the Malpass Hotel, with Single, Twin and Queen Rooms available

Rooms available for booking through the Drive-In Bottle Department or Phone 4782 1600

Single Room

Twin Room

Queen Room

Sugar Bowl praised for friendships and camaraderie

THE forty-third edition of the Home Hill Tennis Association's Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament, held on courts throughout the Burdekin over the May Day long weekend, has again successfully passed with excellent tennis competition, magnificent camaraderie between the players and a wonderful weekend of renewing friendships formed over many years.

An iconic event on the North Queensland tennis calendar, the competition, which was established in 1981 by prominent Home Hill Association members, Lex and Pat Anderson, has evolved into a highly anticipated event in the calendar, attracting teams from Brisbane to Mareeba and everywhere in between.

This year witnessed an impressive turnout, with



The A Ladies Trophy was won by defending champions, Julie Witty's 'M & Ms'. The Trophy, originally donated by Trevor and Cath Davies, was presented by Lex Davies.



The A2 Ladies Trophy went to Paula Simpson's 'Hack the Planet'. The Trophy was donated by the Barbagalalo family and was presented by Jill Barbagalalo.



The B Grade Ladies Trophy was presented to Cathy Fairburn's 'The Odd Bunch'. The trophy was presented by Joel Hanson on behalf of the Hanson family.

44 teams each comprising from six to ten players and totalling roughly 800 visitors who converged on courts in Home Hill, Ayr and Giru.

Event organiser, Kate Caswell, in an online comment, said there was nothing else like the Sugar Bowl and getting together with friends.

"I love that there are some players who dust their racquet off once a year to play and that over the years, we have modified the rules to allow older players to still participate and add value to teams," she said.

Results –

The ongoing support for Home Hill Tennis through the generations has been described as "fantastic to see", with 10 of the 18 teams in the winner's circle boasting players who have either played for Home Hill on the day or were born and bred in Home Hill.

The A grade defending Men's Champions, Bruce Butler's 'Tea Bags', retained the Stockdale trophy with 258 games, ahead of Andrew Casswell's team from Home Hill, The Wally's on 230 (second) and Will Fraser's Bad Hatters of Brisbane (third) on 199. The Stockdale Family Trophy was presented by Ruth Stockdale.

The A2 Men's trophy was won by Carl Martens Tableland Tennis of Mareeba. (Carl was born and raised in Home Hill).

Second went to Brett Wheeler's 'Col's Crew', on 219 and third was Will Fraser's 'The Bad Hatters' on 213. The Lex and Pat Anderson trophy was presented by Kylie Newman on behalf of Pat Anderson.

The B Men's Trophy was won by Brett Campman's 'Calen Crew' (with a few ring-ins from Home Hill) on 266, ahead of second placed 'West Teas' Brett Thompson on 219 and Home Hill's 'Here for Beer' (Justin Vidler) in third place on 217.

The trophy was presented by Andrew Casswell on behalf of the Casswell family. The A Ladies Trophy was won by defending champions, Julie Witty's 'M & Ms' on 180 games, with Hannah Casswell of Home Hill second on 171 and Elspeth Scotford third on 162. The Trophy, originally donated by Trevor and Cath Davies,

was presented by Lex Davies. The A2 Ladies Trophy went to Paula

Simpson's 'Hack the Planet' with 258 games (Western Suburbs Tennis Club) ahead of Megan and Riley's 'Get Under It' with 216 and Deb Debondi's team, 'Tam' with 198. The Trophy was donated by the Barbagalalo family and was presented by Jill Barbagalalo.

The B Grade Ladies Trophy was presented to Cathy Fairburn's 'The Odd Bunch' with an average of 51.4 games (Western Suburbs Tennis Club) ahead of second-placed Sharon Mc Dermott's 'Hot Shots' (Western Suburbs Tennis Club) with 48, while third went to Sophie Rickards' 'Ace Ace Baby' (Home Hill) with 36.25. The trophy was presented by Joel Hanson on behalf of the Hanson family.



The A grade Defending champions, Bruce Butler's Tea Bags, retained the Stockdale Family Trophy, which was presented by Ruth Stockdale



The A2 Men's trophy was won by Carl Martens Tableland Tennis of Mareeba. The Lex and Pat Anderson trophy was presented by Kylie Newman on behalf of Pat Anderson



The B Men's Trophy was won by Brett Campman's 'Calen Crew'. The trophy was presented by Andrew Casswell on behalf of the Casswell family.

New electorate office opened for State MP

HOME HILL residents heading over to Ayr to see the State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP should take note that his office has now been moved from its previous position in the Centrepoint Arcade to an new position in the East End Centre fronting Queen Street.

With front picture windows highlighting aspects of his Burdekin Electorate, the new office is larger in size and allows ample opportunity for constituents to meet with Mr Last or his staff in excellent surroundings.

The new office was officially opened in May by the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Parliamentary Service and is responsible for the efficient and economical management of the parliamentary administration.

The crowd at the opening, which included Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort and several other councillors as well as local business and service operators, was told that Mr Laurie was the only State Parliamentary Clerk who was responsible for electorate offices throughout the state.

He said the new Burdekin Electorate Office was a template for what he would like to see all offices become.

The official ceremony saw a plaque unveiled on the front wall of the new office, while the honour of cutting a celebratory cake was given to Mr Last's Landlord, Dr. Sarat Tata, of Home Hill.

Dr Tata was present at the ceremony with his family along with the Youth Parliament Member for Burdekin, Brent Dingle, who recently attended a session of the Queensland Youth Parliament in Brisbane and Mr Last's two predecessors as Member for Burdekin, Mrs Rosemary Menkens and Mr Mark Stoneman.

A presentation of a mounted replica of a cane knife was also made to Mr Laurie by the secretary of the Burdekin Men's Shed, Mr Charles Ford.



State Member for Burdekin, Dale Last (left) at the opening of his new electorate office with previous Members for Burdekin, Mark Stoneman and Rosemary Menkens and the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie



Dale Last MP with Youth Parliament Member for Burdekin, Brent Dingle



Dr Sarat Tata cuts the cake watched by Dale Last MP and Dr Tata's wife, Dr Pavani Ganapathi and their daughter, Rama

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Fashions and racing attracts the crowds to Growers Day

THE Burdekin Race Club's Growers Race Day has again proved to be the most popular event on the Burdekin District's entertainment calendar as huge crowds packed the Home Hill Race track's facilities for a feast of Fashions and racing.

Patrons were still lining up at the entry gate after the third race was run and won, as the fashions again drew entrants from far and wide vying for the valuable prizes on offer, while a six-race program culminating in the running of the Carlton & United Breweries Burdekin Cup over 1860 metres had race day patrons lining the new fencing to seek a winner.

The Burdekin Cup was won by Joe's Giggle, a five-year-old gelding ridden by Scott Sheargold, which had excited owners and trainer, Joanne Hassett of Townsville, surrounding the horse after it returned to the saddling enclosure.

Second was Monastery (Carl Spry) with Medal (Adrian Layt) in third place.

Scott Sheargold was also successful in race two, riding Aspen Lad to victory in the Star Liquor Handicap, ahead Lily Allez, ridden by Gabrielle Semmens and trained in Home Hill by Darby Amos.

The Burdekin Club received strong support from owners and trainers from Rockhampton north for the six race program and close racing was evident in all events.

And while the races were run and won, large crowds surrounded the Fashions Stage as the judges had a difficult task selecting the winners of each section.

Many of the successful entrants had travelled large distances to vie for the valuable prizes that were on offer during the afternoon.



The placegetters in the Millinery section of the Fashions on the Field



The successful entrants in the Contemporary Lady section



Lily Allez, trained in Home Hill by Darby Amos, was a narrow half a length behind the winner, Aspen Lad in race two, the Star Liquor Handicap



Joe's Giggle (Scott Sheargold) was a clear winner of the 2024 Burdekin Cup



Burdekin Race Club President, Ricky Gudge had the honour of placing the winner's blanket on Joe's Giggle after winning the Burdekin Cup

Bendigo Bank profits back into Home Hill community

A Large number of Home Hill organisations have benefitted from the distribution of funds from the South Burdekin Community Financial Services Limited, operators of the Bendigo Bank of Home Hill and Ayr, which distributed the profits from their banking services back in to the local communities. Board Chairman, Darren West told a gathering at a recent function at the Burdekin Theatre foyer that "The whole idea of a Community Bank is to provide banking services to our communities, to generate profits that are then distributed back into those communities." That they did with Mr West advising "we have, after tonight, injected back into our community a total of \$1,491,554, in Community Grants, Sponsorships and Dividends". "This has only been made possible by the support from our Home Hill, Ayr and Bowen communities and those people and organisations that have decided to bank with us," he said. "So, based on some of the community grant applications we received, we are going to support 39 organisations with funding from the profits derived from our banking operations in our Home Hill and Ayr Community Bank branches." Mr West said that, as a Board, they believed there was a need for community funding in Youth Services, Sporting facilities, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Community and Cultural facilities,



Environment and Employment.

"The total amount to be granted at this evening's event is \$369,55 - these funds will be utilised for the betterment of your community and your organisations and is in addition to the \$35,750 already distributed through the year."

Referring back to their first distribution of funds, Mr West said their first contribution to the community was in 2008.

"A grand total of \$1075 was distributed," he said, "the Burdekin Eisteddfod \$70, the Chaplain's program \$500 and the Home Hill Harvest Festival \$500.

"We were so chuffed!" he commented.

While giving a brief history of the South Burdekin Community Financial Services Limited, Mr West acknowledged his fellow Directors, all of whom were volunteers, while also noting that three of them had been there for the entire journey.

He also acknowledged their Senior Branch Manager and all the staff from the Home Hill and Ayr branches.

Home Hill recipients who were presented with grants from the Home Hill and Ayr Community Bank were (from Left) Larry Hudson (Burdekin Brass Band), Alex Stillhard (Home Hill Cricket Association), Darren West (South Burdekin Community Financial Services Limited Chairman), Sandi Milani (Burdekin Artisans Community Association Inc.), Kate Casswell (Home Hill Tennis Association), Jeanette Garvey (Home Hill Boat Club), Nikkita Pedron (Home Hill Community Kindergarten), Phil Loizou (Greek Community), Cheryl Platt (Home Hill Choral Society) and David Jackson (Home Hill Chamber of Commerce).

Monthly Bible Message

(Contributed)



In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me

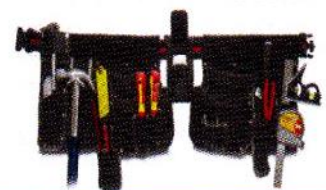
Psalm 120, Verse 1

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New tourist frame for Mt Inkerman

NEW tourist photo frames are being planned for Lynch's Beach, Alva and at Mt Inkerman as part of a plan by the Burdekin Shire Council to enhance the experience for visitors to the Burdekin region.

The frames have been designed to encapsulate the beauty of the region's unique landscape, providing the perfect backdrop for memorable photographs.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort said the frames were not just structures, "they are an invitation to discover and share the beauty of the Burdekin".

"Our goal with this initiative is to enhance tourism and encourage community involvement through social media engagement," Cr Dalle Cort said.

"Residents and visitors are



Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort with the new tourist frame at Lynch's Beach, Alva, which is similar to another to be installed on Mt Inkerman

warmly welcomed to showcase the charm of the Burdekin by sharing their framed snapshots online."

Cr Dalle Cort encouraged everyone to capture their moments and use the hashtag 'visitburdekin' to help promote "our wonderful region".

"Step into the frame and step into the beauty of the Burdekin," Cr Dalle Cort said. "Our new tourist frames are more than just photo opportunities; they're invitations to explore and celebrate our unique landscape."

Outdoor sculptures set for 2024 Canefields Ephemera

The Canefields Ephemera is Home Hill's sculpture festival, which, now its seventh year, is a much loved and anticipated annual event.

It has continued to grow over the years to its current standing as an outdoor sculpture exhibition, which is sure to impress local and state artists exhibiting works.

This year's Ephemera will be a follow-on from the outstanding exhibition that was viewed by many visitors and locals alike last year.

The Canefields Ephemera is to be organised this year by the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce with the support of the Home Hill Harvest Festival Committee and the three-week long display will bring together the community to celebrate the exhibits from local and out-of-town artists.

Ephemera artwork is meant to be short-lived and enjoyed by visitors, day and night, while it is on display.

Prospective entrants should read the conditions carefully as no discussion will be entered into.

The Open Prize is worth \$1500, while the People's Choice prize is \$500 (by voting on the Harvest Festival Face Book page).

The Ephemera is in an ideal position in Lloyd Mann Park on the Bruce Highway through the town's Central Business District and the exhibits can be enhanced by viewing them at night, when the excellent lighting display is evident through the trees in the park.

Parliament Update

THE role our volunteers play in Queensland is invaluable, especially when it comes to our emergency service volunteers. Legislation, which will govern how our rural fires, Fire and Rescue, SES and marine rescue volunteers operate was debated and passed during the recent sitting of parliament. It's safe to say, while there were some wins for our frontline volunteers when it comes to protections under civil and criminal law, the processes and lack of consultation by this state Labor government has left a sour taste for many. As the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, I was able to hear from volunteers in marine rescue,

Direct from Dale
Dale LAST MP Member for **Burdekin**

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- dalelast.com.au
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- @DaleLast1

SES and rural fires and, following feedback from volunteers and their representatives, the LNP voted against the creation of a single Fire Service in Queensland encompassing Queensland Fire and Rescue and the Rural Fire Service.

Our volunteers are truly priceless and as a state that relies so heavily on them, they deserved better from this state government than the lack of consultation and disrespect they have seen throughout this process.

Bruce funding not enough to fill potholes

WHILE \$467 million sounds like a huge investment announced by the Federal Government recently, the reality is, with the current state of the Bruce Highway, the funding would be barely enough to fill the potholes, let alone make the road safer. Sadly, this is a road that we see countless lives lost to each year and closed for multiple days at a time due to flooding.

So it's nothing short of insulting that the federal

Treasurer called this a budget for the Bruce when, in today's terms, the announcement would bring less than 1 per cent of the highway up to standard.

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 email burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

Until next time, stay safe and well

Dale

Uli Liessmann comments . .

HERE are two stories about local heroes . . .

THE first is a top story about Ethan Pengelly, a year 9 Burdekin Catholic High School student (pictured) living in Ayr. Four years ago, with his own initiative, he made and sold home-made rosemary brooches and donated the money to the Home Hill RSL Sub Branch. Ethan has now gone even bigger, with a donation of poppies and merchandise from the Home Hill RSL Sub Branch, he has gone on and sold many hundreds of poppies. All this with no immediate family connection to the Armed Forces. Ethan is a boy who will go places, making his parents proud and a young community asset.



ON A high note, ANZAC day went down very well and especially the Dawn Parade, which was held in the Community Park for the first time, with a record crowd in attendance.

BENDIGO Bank has again helped many local communities with this year's funding round. I hear that many small local organisations were helped and this included the Home Hill Ephemera, which will again be held in conjunction with the Home Hill Harvest Festival. Just to elaborate on Bendigo Bank, how good is it to have a local bank that gives back to the community in cash donations for the betterment of all, unlike other banks where their profit is never enough. Just a plug for Bendigo Bank—if you do not bank there, you should as you will be helping yourself and the community overall.

I AM led to believe that some enterprising community-minded chap is planting veggies in the tree plots in the middle of Ninth Avenue and further afield—Here we have a real community garden. How about if you have a tree plot in front of your house, why not put in some veggies or flowers, it will make a difference for the better where you live. Maybe you could help with a bucket of water, its up to you. He asked that you please wait until the veggies or flowers are ready before you acquire them for your cooking pot. The idea behind this little plot is that you do make use of the produce. I'm getting into it with the plot in front of the shop (Pictured). Talking about eating and cooking, do you have a good short recipe that can be shared and printed? Let me have it and I will give it a test and you could be awarded a *Gold Home Hill Culinary Star* out of five. Better still, just make it and the boys here at the shop will put it to a taste test.



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



IF YOU have never been to one of the Home Hill Choral Society shows, you owe it to yourself to go. They are great shows with all the local talent. I have a standard joke with them that I keep looking for mistakes in the show and they keep telling me they never make mistakes. Oh well, what can I say to that. It is great entertainment with a great home-made supper thrown in with the show. I urge you to go and you will have a lot of laughs, as well as meeting a lot of interesting people as well as politicians.

HERE are my thoughts on a little part of the budget, I am led to believe we will all get a \$300 rebate off our power bill and yes, I like it, as many other Australians will like it. Now I have not heard anything about labour wage problems or did I miss this in the budget? It seems the people who work hard and do a lot of overtime get penalised by paying exorbitant amounts of tax. The harder you work, the more you pay—what a crazy system! Why not reward the industrious workers and charge a flat rate of tax, no matter how many hours they work? Makes you wonder why no one wants to work.

THE monthly joke—and you better laugh!

Mafia Don, Giovanni Alfredo finds out that his bookkeeper, big Roberto Alfons, has cheated him out of 10.5 million bucks and he's not happy. As it happens, big Roberto Alfons is deaf.

The Don assumed that if big Roberto Alfons could not hear anything, he could testify in court.

When the Don Giovanni Alfredo goes to confront Roberto Alfons about his missing \$10.5 million, he takes along his lawyer, Lucky Louie, who just happens to know sign language. The Godfather tells Lucky Louie, the lawyer, "Ask him where my 10.5 million bucks are that he embezzled from me. The lawyer, Lucky Louie, using sign language, asks Roberto Alfons where the money is Roberto Alfons signs back, "I don't know what you are talking about. The lawyer, Lucky Louie tells Don Giovanni Alfredo, "He says he don'ta know whatter you are talking about. The Don Giovanni pulls out a pistol, puts it to Roberto Alfons temple and says, "You ask him again!"

The lawyer signs to Roberto Alfons, "He'll kill you if you don't tell him."

Roberto Alfons signs back, "OK. You a win! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the chook shed in my cousin Bruno's backyard in Home Hill!"

Don Giovanni Alfredo asks the lawyer, Lucky Louie, "What did he say?"

The lawyer replies, " He says you don'ta have the balls to pulla the trigger."

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

- ULI LIESSMANN

Fun and engaging colouring competition

A FUN and engaging colouring competition for children is being offered by the Burdekin Theatre with a chance to win one of three family passes to the spectacular show, ARC by Erth, which is appearing at the Theatre on June 24 and 25, 2024.

ARC by Erth is a unique theatrical production that combines puppetry, storytelling and stunning visual effects to create an unforgettable experience. The show explores themes of nature, history and the wonders of the natural world, making it a perfect outing for families.

Children are invited to showcase their colouring skills for a chance to

win tickets to see the captivating and immersive theatrical experience. A winner will be drawn from each of the three categories - five years and under, six to eight years and nine to 12 years.

Mayor Pierina Dalle Cort encouraged the community to get involved and get creative. "We are excited to see some fantastic creative artwork from our young community and to offer them the opportunity to experience the magical world of ARC by Erth," she said. Entry forms can be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/ARCColouringComp>. Completed entries are due in by Friday, June 7, 2024.

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.